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THE HINDU

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Centre to convene all-party meeting on Sri Lanka tomorrow
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IndiGo plane lands in Karachi after engine malfunction
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Sindhu wins Singapore Open for her third trophy of the season
page 13

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NEARBY

Rain woes continue to haunt various districts

BENGALURU

People of various districts continued to be haunted by rain-related problems. While some areas, especially Malnad and the coastal region continued to receive rains, the northern parts of the State faced the problem of high outflows from reservoirs.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 3

One crore national flags to be hoisted in State

BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that one crore national flags will be hoisted in Karnataka under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme to be organised to mark the country's 75th Independence Day celebrations.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 3

NEET: Students find chemistry paper tough

BENGALURU

With the exception of chemistry, all the other subjects were found to be on a moderate level by students who wrote the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG)-2022, which was conducted on Sunday by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 3

Presidential election today; Murmu has an edge over Sinha

Arrangements have been made in Parliament and Assemblies for polling

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The election of the new President of India will be held on Monday. The contest is between the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate and former Jharkhand Governor, Droupadi Murmu, and the Opposition's choice, senior politician and former Union Minister Yashwant Sinha.

There are 4,809 eligible voters in the electoral college. With the Opposition parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, Telugu Desam Party, YSR Congress Party, Janata Dal(S), Bahujan Samajwadi Party, Shiromani Akali Dal and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha pledging support to Ms. Murmu, along with the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Shiv Sena factions, and the Janata Dal(U), she is comfortably placed to win more than two-thirds of the votes.

The elected members of both the Houses of Parliament and the Assemblies of the States, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Puducherry make up the electoral college for the Presidential election. Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha P.C. Mody is the Returning Officer.

Arrangements have been made in Parliament and in all Assemblies for polling. Counting will take place here on Thursday. There are 31 such polling stations across the country for the 16th Presidential election to elect the 15th President.

The value of total votes is 10,86,431. Given its strength in Parliament and Assemblies and considering the support Ms. Murmu received from various unexpected quarters, the ruling NDA's candidate is likely to win more than 6.67 lakh votes. Nominated MPs and MLAs and members of the Legislative Councils are not entitled to vote in the Presidential election.

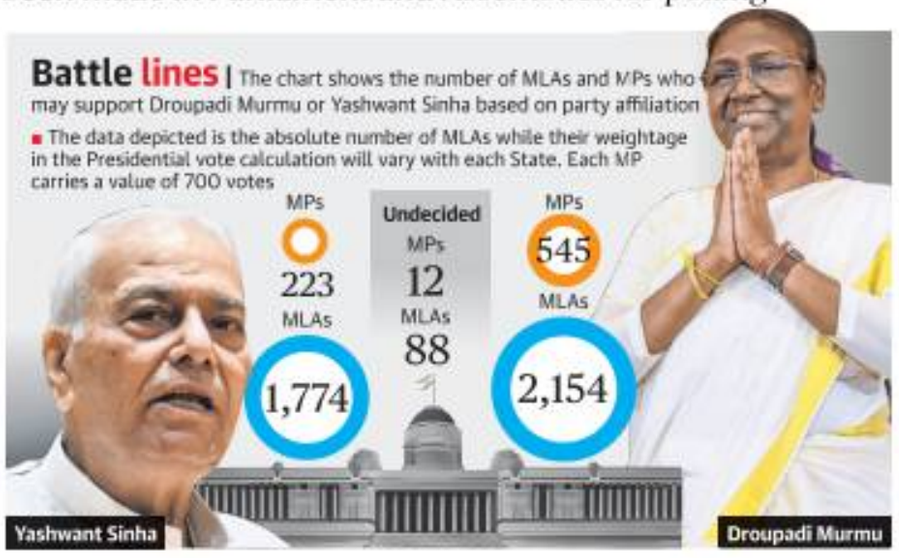
In 2017, President Ram Nath Kovind received votes with a value of more than seven lakh against his opponent, Meira Kumar of the Congress. Considering the support for Ms. Murmu, it is possible that she may receive a similar value.

MPs will get a green colour ballot paper and MLAs a pink ballot paper.

"For marking the vote, the commission will supply particular pens. The pen will be given to the electors in the polling station by the designated official when the ballot paper is handed over. Electors have to mark the ballot only with this particular pen and not with any other pen. Voting by using any other pen shall lead to invalidation of the vote at the time of counting," the Election Commission said.

The 84th amendment to the Constitution provides that the population of the States for the purposes of calculation of value of votes for the Presidential election shall be based on the 1971 census. The value of votes of all members of each Assembly is worked out by multiplying the number of elective seats in the Assembly by the number of votes for each member. It is 175x159 = 27,825 for Andhra Pradesh, a background note said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8



Opposition picks Margaret Alva for Vice-President poll

She is our unanimous choice, says NCP chief Pawar

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Former Rajasthan Governor Margaret Alva will be the joint Opposition candidate for the August 6 Vice-Presidential (V-P) election.

The decision to field Ms. Alva, 80, was taken at a meeting of the leaders of 17 Opposition parties at the residence of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar, and comes a day after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) announced West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar as its candidate.

"It is a privilege and an honour to be nominated as the candidate of the joint Opposition for the post of Vice-President of India. I accept this nomination with great humility and thank the leaders of the Opposition for the faith they have put in me. Jai Hind," Ms. Alva tweeted soon after her name was announced as the Opposition candidate.

She will be filing her nomination papers on the last date, July 19.

"We have unanimously decided to field Margaret Alva as our joint candidate for the post of Vice-President," Mr. Pawar announced after the two-hour meeting.

Sources said her name was finalised after informal consultations among Mr. Pawar, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] general secretary Sitaram Yechury.

Margaret Alva

When her name was discussed for approval by others in the meeting, the sources cited above claimed that few leaders wanted to know if it had the approval of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi.

Mr. Kharge is said to have then informed the leaders that the decision was taken after consulting Ms. Gandhi.

Addressing mediapersons, Mr. Pawar said a total of 17 parties had unanimously taken the decision to field her and with the support of the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, Ms. Alva would be the joint candidate of 19 parties.

"We are trying to contact Mamata Banerjee and Arvind Kejriwal. Last time they supported our joint Presidential candidate," Mr. Pawar said, adding that even the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha is together with the Opposition parties in this election.

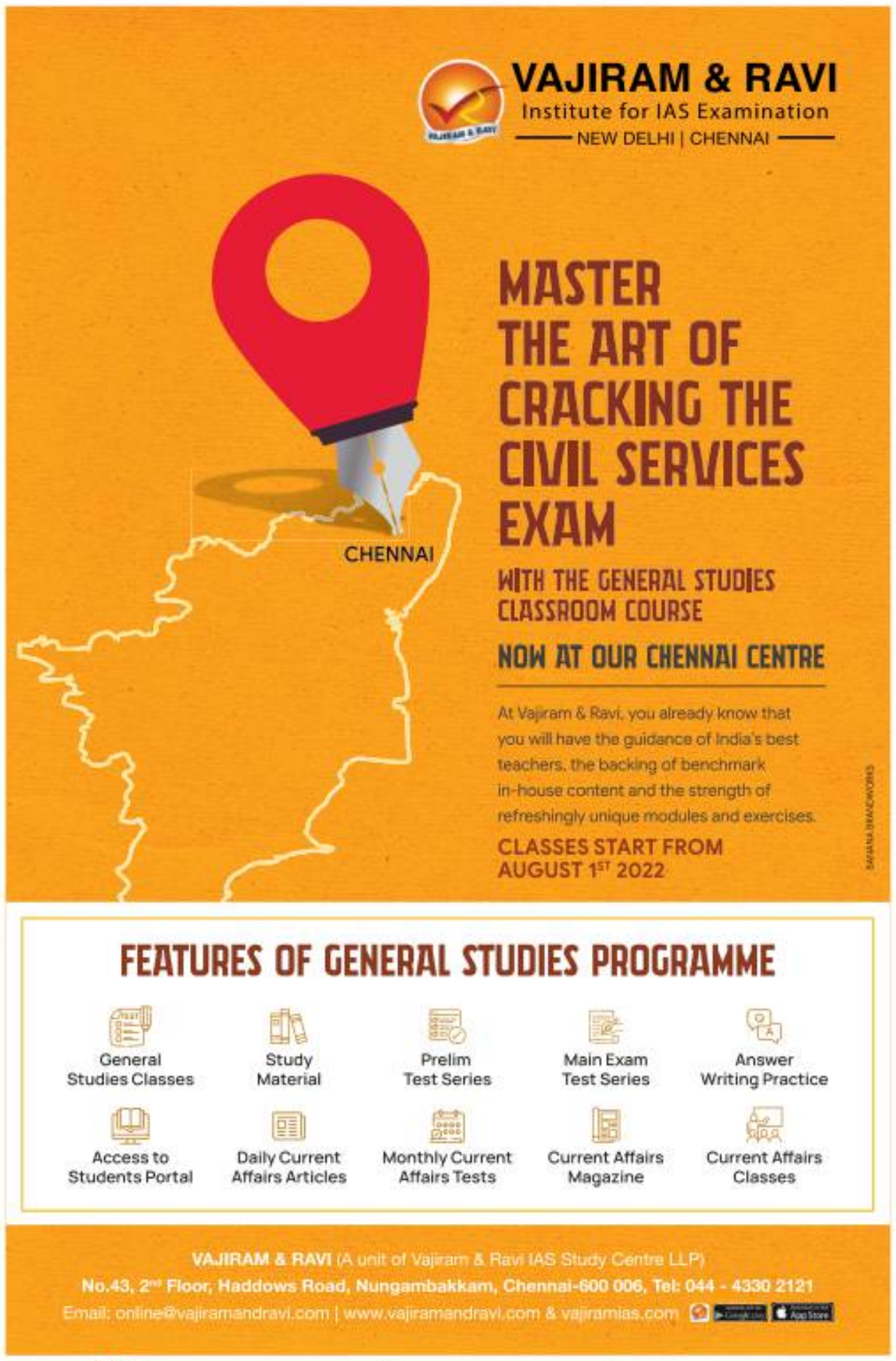
Leaders who attended the meeting at the NCP chief's residence included Jairam Ramesh of the Congress, D. Raja and Binoy Viswam of the Communist Party of India, Sanjay Raut of the Shiv Sena, T.R. Baalu and Tiruchi Siva of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Ram Gopal Yadav of the Samajwadi Party, Vaiko of the Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, K. Keshava Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samiti, besides Mr. Kharge and Mr. Yechury. A.D. Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, E.T. Mohammed Basheer of the Indian Union Muslim League and Jose K. Mani of the Kerala Congress (M) were also present.

The electoral college for the Vice-Presidential poll is made up of the 788 members of Parliament (543 Lok Sabha and 245 Rajya Sabha) and the numbers are heavily stacked in favour of the ruling NDA. With eight vacancies, the halfway mark is 390.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

ALVA, A VETERAN OF POLITICAL COMEBACKS ▸ PAGE 9

EDUCATIONPLUS ▸ PAGES 4 & 5



THE HINDU

Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Vaccination milestone

2 In billion, the number of COVID-19 vaccination doses administered in India till Sunday, with booster doses underway for adults, as daily infections hit a four-month high. Prime Minister Narendra Modi extolled the vaccination milestone, celebrating the world's longest-running inoculation campaign, which began last year. According to the health ministry, the death toll due to COVID-19 infections is 5,25,709, with 49 deaths recorded overnight. New cases rose to 20,528 over the past 24 hours. The country has lifted most COVID-related restrictions. REUTERS

FPIs pull out money

7,432 In ₹ crore, the amount pulled out by Foreign portfolio investors (FPI) from the Indian equity market this month so far amid sustained strengthening of the dollar and increasing concerns over a recession in the U.S. This comes following a net withdrawal of ₹50,203 crore from equities in June. This was the highest net outflow since March 2020, when they had pulled out ₹61,973 crore. FPIs withdrew ₹879 crore from the debt market during the period under review. PTI

Sri Lanka protests

100 The number of days since Sri Lanka's protest movement began, that forced President Gotabaya Rajapaksa out of office and now turning its sights on his successor as the country's economic crisis continues. Mr. Rajapaksa fled his palace shortly before demonstrators invaded it last weekend and on Thursday resigned from the presidency. His mismanagement is blamed for Sri Lanka's financial turmoil, which has forced 22 million people to endure shortages of food, fuel and medicines since late last year. AFP

Aiding Pakistan

4 In $ billion, the amount Pakistan is likely to get from friendly countries in July to bridge a gap in foreign reserves highlighted by the International Monetary Fund, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said, two days after the cash-strapped nation reached a deal with the global lender for the revival of a $6 billion loan facility. Mr. Ismail said the country would get $6 billion from multilateral lenders this fiscal year. Depleting reserves, a widening current account deficit and the rupee's depreciation against the dollar have left the nation facing a balance-of-payments crisis. PTI

Animals rescued

88 The different species of animals, birds and reptiles rescued from different parts of Mumbai and its adjoining areas in three days, who were displaced due to heavy rains in the region, a forest official said. The majority of the animals and birds were rescued from the suburban areas of the city, which share spaces with forests, and most of them were displaced due to incessant rainfall, he said. Two wildlife ambulances, six rescue staff and 20 volunteers from the NGO, Resqink Association for Wildlife Welfare, rescued the animals. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Why is Kerala protesting Supreme Court's ESZ notification

Why is the notification controversial in the State? What were the earlier efforts of the State to draft ESZ notifications? How have the people of the State reacted to the directive?

THE GIST

- Nearly 30% of Kerala is forested land and the Western Ghats occupies 48% of the State.
- Kerala apprehends that the Supreme Court's notification would adversely impact the interests of the State besides upsetting the lives of millions living near the protected areas.
- As it occurred during the post Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) days, a section of the Church has openly come out against the notification.

K.S. SUDHI

The story so far: On July 7, the Kerala State Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Central government to exclude the State's human habitations, farmlands and public institutions from the purview of the Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZ), recently notified by the Supreme Court, to be set-up around all protected forests in the country. The Assembly also called upon the Centre to notify the zones by considering the State government's proposals that marked the ESZ as zero around 10 protected areas of the State, urging the union government to enact laws for the purpose.

Why is the ESZ notification controversial in Kerala?

The June 3 directive by a three-judge Supreme Court Bench consisting of Justices L. Nageswara Rao, B. R. Gavai and Aniruddha Bose to have a mandatory ecologically sensitive zones of minimum one kilometre measured from the demarcated boundary of every protected forest, including the national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, has stirred the hornet's nest in Kerala where any regulatory mechanism on land and land use patterns would have political ramifications.

With an average population density of 900 persons per square kilometre, much higher than the national average, the demographic pressure on the available land is unusually high in the State

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had notified the draft ecologically sensitive zones of 20 of the 23 protected areas in the State, while issuing the final notification of the Mathikettan Shola National Park way back in December 2020.

However, the draft notification of the Periyar National Park, also called as Periyar Tiger Reserve, is yet to be published though the State government had submitted the proposal earlier.

The State is yet to submit the draft ESZ of Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary, the newest one in Kerala, located in Malappuram district.

What worries the State is the possible impact of the apex court's order on its unique landscape. Nearly 30% of Kerala is forested land and the Western Ghats occupies 48% of the State.

Moreover, there is a network of lakes, canals, wetlands and the 590-kilometre-long coastline, which are all governed by a series of environmental conservation and protection legislations, leaving little space for its 3.5 crore population to occupy.

With an average population density of 900 persons per square kilometre, much higher than the national average, the demographic pressure on the available land is unusually high in the State, as noted by the State Assembly's resolution.

The State Government apprehends that the Supreme Court's notification may worsen the ground situation as it would adversely impact the interests of the State besides upsetting the lives of millions living near the protected areas.

How did the State's earlier efforts to draft ESZ notifications go?

Earlier, while preparing the draft ESZ notifications for its protected areas including the Malabar, Idukki, Aralam, Kottiyoor, Shendurney and Wayanad wildlife sanctuaries, the State Government had taken care to exclude the areas with high population density, government and quasi-government institutions, and public institutions from the ambit of the notification.

The marking of the ESZ for the protected areas that shared the forest boundary with the neighbouring States was a peaceful affair as there were no human habitations in between.

However, the apex court's recent order has changed the picture and forced the State government to re-look the ESZs of at least 10 protected areas which were earlier marked as zero.

What has been the reaction to the directive?

The apex court order comes a decade after the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report, aka Gadgil report, that had radically influenced the socio-political, economic and ecological narratives in the State. Though not to the level of the high-pitched public unrest and protests that the State witnessed during the days preceding the WGEEP report, the ESZ notification too has triggered state-wide protests. As it occurred during the post WGEEP days, a section of the Church has openly come out against the notification.

The Church groups have also demanded the recalling of the apex court order.

The Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council, a powerful body catering to the special needs of the apostolate in the State, termed the apex court verdict as unfortunate as it feared that the order will upset the lives of thousands of settler farmers and people living on the forest fringes. The forum apprehended that the order will effectively turn four lakh acres around the 23 wildlife sanctuaries in the State into buffer zones, thus affecting around 1.5 lakh families.

Since June 3, both the ruling Left Front and the Opposition have observed *hartals* in the hilly districts of the State, protesting the Supreme Court directive.

What's next for Kerala?

Kerala is pinning its hope on the Centre's stand that it was willing to discuss its concerns with the State government. The State government has also decided to explore the option of approaching the Central Empowered Committee, as directed by the Supreme Court in its order, to convince the forum of the need to maintain zero ecologically sensitive zone in the areas of human habitation.

It may also approach the apex court seeking exemption from the one kilometre ecologically sensitive zone regime and to limit it to zero wherever required.

Initial help: Kerala is pinning its hope on the Centre's stand that it was willing to discuss its concerns with the State government. • VISHNU PRATHAP

EXPLAINER

Karnataka's PSI recruitment scam and the rot at the top

How was the recruitment scam carried out and who were the accused? How will the scam affect the recruitment drive?

NALME NACHIYAR

The story so far: The Karnataka State Police issued a gazette notification early last year to fill 545 Police sub-inspector (PSI) vacancies. Following physical tests, over 54,000 candidates appeared for the written exam across 92 centres in the State in January 2022. However, in March, irregularities first came to light when a social media post revealed that Veeresh Chandrashekhar, a candidate from Kalaburagi who had ranked 7th, had been awarded 121 out of 150 marks even though he had attempted only 21 questions as per the carbon copy of his OMR sheet. The Crime Investigation Department (CID) probe that followed unveiled one of the biggest recruitment scams in the State, which saw lakhs given in bribes and the arrests of over 60 candidates, local politicians, and top police officials in the Karnataka Police recruitment cell, including its then chief Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Amrit Paul.

How did the malpractice take place?

The format of the PSI exam includes two papers. A comprehension paper for 50 marks and an MCQ paper for 150 marks (100 questions for 1.5 marks each) are to be filled on an OMR sheet. It is in the second paper that the CID officials uncovered two methods of cheating employed to score high marks.

First, the candidates took help from the invigilators. They left most questions unanswered on OMR sheets, attempting only what they knew while invigilators later filled the rest with correct answers.

Second, the candidates used Bluetooth devices. The question paper was leaked from examination centres to touts who had a panel of experts relay the answers to the candidates via Bluetooth devices. While metal detectors had been deployed at the centres, the ones used in the PSI recruitment exams were very small, skin-coloured and undetectable.

Who were involved?

Lasting over four months, the investigation uncovered the systematic way in which the entire recruitment process was rigged, tracing the rot all the way to the top of the chain. Those arrested include the candidates, the kingpin and his associates, the touts and middlemen, the invigilators, police personnel, and officers at the recruitment cell. The scam was found to have

been masterminded at the local level in Kalaburagi by Congress politicians Rudragowda Patil and his brother Mahantesh Patil.

The other prime accused was Divya Hagaragi, former president of the women's wing in Bharatiya Janata Party's Kalaburagi unit.

What was the role of the recruitment cell?

The probe revealed that ADGP Amrit Paul – who was heading the recruitment division when the scam broke out – had given the keys of the strongroom, where the OMR sheets were kept under tight security, to Deputy Superintendent of Police Shantha Kumar.

Mr. Kumar then allegedly roped in first division assistant Harsha and Reserve Sub-Inspectors (RSIs) Sridhar and Srinivas to help him switch off the CCTV and fill up the blank OMR sheets.

The CID arrested Mr. Kumar and four junior officers. ADGP Amrit Paul was initially transferred to the Internal Security Division before being arrested in July 2022.

What led to the malpractice?

Being a police sub-inspector is a coveted government post that comes with the promise of job security and promotions. This year though, about 1.29 lakh aspirants had applied for a mere 545 vacancies.

According to sources, 30 aspirants had paid between ₹30 lakh to ₹1 crore to help tamper the OMR sheets and get into the toppers' list. Some of them had sold their land while others pledged their valuables to pay bribes.

The expansive nature of the scam, yet again, brought to the fore the corruption at the higher levels of the police force.

How did the State government react?

On April 30, 2022, the State Government annulled the recruitment process, cancelled the provisional list of the 545 PSIs announced, and decided to conduct a fresh examination. This led to a furore among selected candidates, who launched a protest demanding that only those who had indulged in the malpractice must be punished. Their contention was that, with the cut-off for the PSI exam set at 30 years of age, many of them would have crossed that limit, making them ineligible to take the re-examination.

How has the scam affected recruitment?

The 90,000-plus strong Karnataka State Police, which had been suffering with over 30% vacancies, had taken up an aggressive recruitment drive since 2016, with an aim to have no vacancies by 2023-24. However, the scam has shaken the police department and government alike, while the cancellation of the selection list has dealt a major blow to the recruitment drive, officials believe.

THE GIST

- Lasting over four months, the investigation uncovered the systematic way in which the entire recruitment process was rigged, tracing the rot all the way to the top of the chain.
- The scam was found to have been masterminded at the local level in Kalaburagi by Congress politician Rudragowda Patil.
- On April 30, 2022, the State Government annulled the recruitment process, cancelled the provisional list of the 545 PSIs announced and decided to conduct a fresh examination.

Built to ease traffic, this flyover has now become a gridlock

Expansion of city, explosion of vehicle numbers, and opening of Kempegowda International Airport cited to be major factors for traffic congestion at flyover

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Almost twenty years ago, the Hebbal flyover, a gateway for vehicles coming from National Highway 44 to enter the city, was opened to motorists. The flyover, with several loops, also helped people travel towards Yeshwanthpur and K.R. Puram.

Over the years, the city expanded and vehicle numbers increased drastically (it has crossed the 1 crore mark), and more importantly, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) also opened. This has resulted in an increased usage of the flyover, turning it into a traffic gridlock.

For more than a decade, the civic bodies and the State government made multiple proposals to decongest the junction. However, most of the projects either remained on paper or were halted midway through the work.

To ease traffic, the chiefs of the civic bodies recently visited the spot and came out with short-term and long-term proposals.

Measures announced

A slew of short-term measures were announced as a part of the decongestion effort. The authorities claim that these measures would result in reducing the congestion by 15 to 20%.

Motorists, though, gave mixed responses about the impact. While some said there is some relief, Revanth Kumar said, "I do not see any impact of the measures taken. The road below the flyover is narrow and cannot accommodate the traffic moving towards Tumakuru Road and also those turning left to access the ramp to move towards the city. In addition to this, due to metro work, the traffic near signals from Allalasandra flyover till Kodigehalli Gate has increased considerably. There will be more congestion once the metro work advances".

Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES), which had studied the junction, had also come up with various infrastructure projects to clear the traffic in the area. The State government has entrusted the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) with implementing these projects as long-term measures.

BDA Commissioner Rajesh Gowda said, "There are four components to the infrastructure projects, and the board has deliberated on these projects. Separate tenders need to be floated to take them up".

Projects halted midway

Meanwhile, the proposal to add additional loops to existing lanes is not new. In 2019, the BDA stalled the construction of additional loops to the existing flyover for the benefit of traffic coming from the airport and moving towards the city. Out of 43 piers, 13 were constructed. After Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) raised objections, saying that the project would come in the way of the proposed Namma Metro expansion, the project was stalled.

In a letter to the Chief Minister, Krishna Byre Gowda, Congress MLA, has demanded that the State government take up the projects and widen the flyover by adding an additional loop.

In the letter, he stated that previous construction work of adding additional lanes was sanctioned in 2015-16, and after the works started, it was stopped in 2019. He added that ₹24.49 crore had already been spent for the stalled project.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had proposed to construct a service road from the Hebbal lake side towards Kodigehalli Gate. Defence land was acquired and several trees were axed for the project. It has been years, but there is no sign of completing the project.

Widening of the service roads and construction of bus bays would help in avoiding the congestion near the skywalk. Hundreds of inter-State passengers come to the point to board buses to Hyderabad and other points.

In the future, Hebbal will become a major junction. The ORR-airport line of BMRCL is under construction and a metro station will come up near the BMTC depot near Hebbal.

As per phase III of Namma Metro, an intersection station will be built at Kempapura and the alignment will go via Hebbal (through ORR) to J.P. Nagar. In addition, the State government has also proposed the construction of a metro line from Sarjapur to Hebbal.

Other projects include construction of a railway station as part of a suburban rail project by K-RIDE (Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd). The first phase of the project from Baiyappanahalli to Chikkabanvara will go via Hebbal.

To facilitate the ongoing metro works, BMRCL will widen the service road from Esteem Mall to the Hebbal flyover. An official of BMRCL said, "Hebbal will become a mass transit junction in the future. In addition to building road infrastructure, there is a need for comprehensive planning to integrate future mass transit networks".

(Mission Decongestion is a series on some of the worst traffic junctions in Bengaluru that the civic authorities hope to decongest)

Short-term measures

- Motorists coming from the airport side have been given direct access to Hebbal flyover
- Those heading towards Kempapura have been asked to take a left at Vidyashilp academy and take the main lanes below the expressway
- Those heading to K.R. Puram have to use service road
- Building service road for motorists going towards Sahakarnagar from Hebbal flyover side and others

Long-term proposals

- Construction of a flyover with two lanes for traffic from city towards the airport
- More lanes at grade for traffic moving from Tumakuru Road to airport, airport to Tumakuru Road, airport to K.R. Puram and others
- Construction of an underpass

Mission
Decongestion
Hebbal flyover junction

> I have noticed that congestion has reduced to some extent. Police are also seen manning the traffic even on the flyover. It could be another factor easing the traffic on the flyover to some extent. However, whatever they do now is temporary. There is a need for comprehensive measures to clear the traffic in the area.
>
> VIDYASAGAR R, motorist

> Instead of ourselves claiming that congestion has been reduced, we have asked an expert to study the impact of short-term measures on traffic. In addition to existing measures, we are also taking other steps for the benefit of motorists and pedestrians using the road under the flyover.
>
> TUSHAR GIRI NATH, Chief Commissioner, BBMP

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUL. 18	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 22:54	SET 10:23
TUESDAY, JUL. 19	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 23:34	SET 11:15
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 20	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
RISE 00:00	SET 12:05

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
26°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower is likely.

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'Namma Clinics' services will be launched in all wards next month, says Bommai

It aims to provide health services to people in their own wards

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that 'Namma Clinics' will be launched in 243 wards of Bengaluru next month to offer health services to citizens.

'Namma Clinics' is a programme aimed to provide health services to people in their own wards. The State Cabinet recently cleared the recruitment of doctors and nursing staff to 'Namma Clinics'. The State government has been giving greater priority for health and education in Bengaluru, he said.

Development works

The Chief Minister was speaking after inaugurating a slew of development works, including the 'Basava Dhama' park, the Dr. B R Ambedkar Community Hall, the Sri Balagangadharanatha Swamiji Park, in Mahalakshmi Layout in the city.

Approval has been given for the rejuvenation of 75 lakes and construction of 20 schools.

Funds have been provided for comprehensive development of Bengaluru.

The work on the 11-km arterial road connecting Tumakuru Road with Mysuru Road would ease traffic congestion at many junctions by 40%, Mr. Bommai said.

The State government has provided ₹6,000 crore under the Nagarothana Project for civic infrastructure; 400-km stormwater drains are being developed with an allocation of ₹1,600 crore; metro rail phase III to connect the outskirts of the city would be launched next year, and work on the ₹15,000-crore suburban rail project has been launched.

Many projects have been taken up to improve the city's infrastructure, he added.

BDA floats PRR tender for second time

Project to be taken up under public-private partnership model

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has issued a fresh tender for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project.

Earlier, the authority floated a tender in April, but eventually the process was scrapped as there was no clarity on fixing compensation for acquiring land and investors sought more time to "study" the project.

On Sunday, the BDA issued the tender notification for constructing the 74-km PRR line, connecting Tumakuru Road with Hosur Road.

The project will be taken up under the public-private partnership model. The private investor has to bear the land acquisition cost also. To implement the eight-lane road project, the BDA has notified more than 2,500 acres of land.

An official of the BDA said, "We had written to the State government on the land acquisition cost. The Cabinet has to decide on the matter". The farmers, whose land has been notified for the project, are demanding compensation as per the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

On the other hand, the officials have been maintaining that as per a Supreme Court order, the BDA Act applies for fixing compensation but landowners are not agreeing to it as it would be low. The BDA had also contemplated fixing the 2018-19 guidance value as the base to fix the compensation package. The issue will be resolved at the level of the Chief Minister.

Lalitha Naik gets one more threat letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Former Minister B.T. Lalitha Naik received a threat letter, for the third time, on Saturday. Based on a complaint, the Sanjaynagar police have taken up a non-cognisable report and stepped up vigil in and around her residence.

According to the police, Ms. Naik has a gunman in addition to the surveillance that had been stepped up.

Investigation is on into the earlier letters to track down the person responsible, a senior police officer said.

Ms. Naik earlier received two letters on July 3 and July 7, which said that she was among the 61 writers and Opposition party leaders in a 'target list'.

The letters termed them as anti-nationals and threatened to eliminate them.

The third letter also contained pictures of the writers and political leaders, demanding that they publicly apologise or face death. The government had ordered a detailed probe into the letters and appointed a nodal officer of the rank of Superintendent of Police to supervise the investigation.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Bengaluru students perform well in ICSE examination

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Class X results of the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) were announced on Sunday and a total of 54 students from the State made it to the merit list. Five students from different schools in the State shared the first rank with 99.6%. The results this year, for the first time, have been declared based on the marks secured by the students in two examinations and one internal assessment project.

Adi Kishore and Chetan Padavala

"I had not expected to receive such a great result. I had started my preparation for the second semester examination right after the first semester exam got over," said Adi Kishore, one of the first-rank holders, from Trio World School.

While his father works in an advertising agency and his mother in an NGO, Mr. Kishore is interested in a career in science. "I want to get into the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) and pursue a degree in Physics," he added

Chetan Padavala, from Greenwood High, said that he was relieved after the results. "It feels like all the efforts that we put in have finally paid off," he said. He secured 99.4 percentile and rank 6. While his father is a software engineer, his mother is a doctor. He wants to pursue a career in computers or bio-medical engineering.

Schools across the city are happy with the results and some of them have recorded 100% results.

Indian team wins laurels at Maths Olympiad

The Indian team that bagged a gold and five bronze medals at the The 63rd International Mathematical Olympiad in Oslo, Norway.

SUDHINDR A.B.
BENGALURU

India bagged a gold medal and five bronze medals at the 63rd International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO 2022), held at Oslo, Norway, from July 6 to 16, which saw 589 contestants from 104 countries taking part.

Pranjal Srivastava, a student of National Public School, Koramangala, won the gold medal, while two other boys from the city, Atul Shatavart Nadig, of Sriram Global School, and Kaustav Mishra, of Delhi Public School, Bangalore East, bagged bronze medals.

Arjun Gupta (Delhi), Adhitya Venkata Ganesh Mangudy (Pune), and Vedant Saini (Chandigarh) were the other members of the Indian team who won bronze medals.

This is Mr. Srivastava's third consecutive gold medal at the IMO. "It is a matter of great pride that after many years, every member of the Indian team returned with a medal each," he said.

The medal ceremony was held in the same Town Hall where the Nobel Peace Prize is given every year. "I feel privileged to receive a gold medal again in my final IMO. It was an honour to receive the gold medal with the Indian flag at the famous venue," Mr. Srivastava said.

A team of experts from the Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE) and the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, accompanied the contestants as mentors.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PWD ZONE KOTA
No. 1343 Dated 11.07.2022
NIT No.08/2022-23
Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for **Budget Announcement Road works year 2022-23 in PWD Zone Kota (Kota, Bundi, Baran)** are invited from interested bidders **upto 6.00 pm, 22.08.2022.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the Rajasthan and **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in** website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 16660.00 lacs.**

UBN No.
1. PWD2223WLOB03755 2. PWD2223WLOB03761
3. PWD2223WLOB03762 4. PWD2223WLOB03763
5. PWD2223WLOB03767 6. PWD2223WLOB03768
7. PWD2223WLOB03769 8. PWD2223WLOB03770

(G.C. Meena)
DIPR/C/9326/2022 **Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD Zone Kota**

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL.NLBC Division, Rodalabanda-584127 Tq.Lingasugur Dist.Raichur email:kbjnlnlbc4@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/509 Date : 7.7.2022
No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/513 Date : 7.7.2022
No: KBJNL/NLBC/PB/2022-23/517(Call3) Date : 7.7.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-tendering only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL, NLBC Division, Rodalabanda invites percentage tenders in two cover system from eligible KBJNL Category-III/PWD/Electrical Class.I & above Contractors for CC Road, Bore well works(SCP/TSP) & approved AWP works, (8+3+5=16 Nos), as detailed in the short term Tender Notification published in e-procurement portal viz http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The Intending tenderers may download the tender document through e-procurement portal viz., http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in.from 13.07.2022 to 12.08.2022 upto 4.00 PM and the technical bid will be opened on 16.08.2022 @ 11.00 AM and further details can be obtained from this office in any working days during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIP/Raichur/196/MC&A/2022-23 **KBJNL NLBC Division, Rodalbanda**

राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग-वृत सीकर
(डाक बंगला कैम्पस सीकर 332001; email: piu_sikar1@rediffmail.com, seskr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in)
क्रमांकः- एस.ई/सीकर/2022/डी:-925 **ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : 08/2022-2023** दिनांक: 8.7.2022

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से निम्न विवरण के अनुसार कार्यों के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान मे उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के 'एए' एवं 'ए' श्रेणी के सर्वेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई -टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे निविदाएं प्राप्त की जावेगी।

क्र. सं.	खण्ड का नाम	कार्य/ पैकेज का नाम	टेन्डर लागत (लाखों में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	ई ग्रास पर चालान बनाने हेतु कार्यालय का नाम	ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने का स्थान
1.	Fatehpur	RJ-29-05/DLB/BA/RMG/2022-23	192.96	05 Month	Dn.-Fatehpur	Circle Sikar
2	Fatehpur	RJ-29-06/DLB/BA/RMG/2022-23	195.43	05 Month	Dn.-Fatehpur	Circle Sikar
3.	Fatehpur	RJ-29-07/DLB/BA/FTR/2022-23	185.39	05 Month	Dn.-Fatehpur	Circle Sikar
2	Fatehpur	RJ-29-08/DLB/BA/FTR/2022-23	243.96	05 Month	Dn.-Fatehpur	Circle Sikar

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट www.dipronline.Org http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
NIB No. PWD2223A1023
UEN NO. PWD2223WSOB03621, PWD2223WSOB03622, PWD2223WSOB03624, PWD2223WSOB03626

सावर मल मीणा,
DIPR/C/9361/2022 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत्त सीकर

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर
क्रमांक: 1491 दिनांक: 11.07.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या : 12 वर्ष 2022-2023
NIB No.: PWD2223A1071

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कुल 14 पैकेज कार्य जिनकी लागत राशि रू. 5159.94 लाख है के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएँ आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	15 जुलाई 2022, 9:30 बजे से 08 अगस्त 2022, सायं 06:00 बजे तक

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in पर http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट पर http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड कराना आवश्यक है। कार्यालय दू.भा.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है।

1. PWD2223WSOB03794	2. PWD2223WSOB03795	3. PWD2223WSOB03796
4. PWD2223WSOB03797	5. PWD2223WSOB03798	6. PWD2223WSOB03799
7. PWD2223WSOB03800	8. PWD2223WSOB03801	9. PWD2223WSOB03804
10.PWD2223WSOB03805	11.PWD2223WSOB03808	12. PWD2223WSOB03810
13. PWD2223WSOB03811	14.PWD2223WSOB03812	

(देवीलाल आर्य) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
डीआईपीआर/वी/9297/2022 सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:CEE/TZ/EE(C)-2/AEE(C)-2/2022-23/7952-54 Date: 15.07.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites tender for Construction of cable ducts Asphalt road and other civil allied works for Enhancing the existing 2x20MVA Transformer by 2x31.5MVA Transformer at 66/11kV sub-station, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru(3rd Call) in e-Procurement modey only. Approximate Cost: **Rs. 41,91,000/-**(Including 18% GST). Works Period: **6 months.** The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 25.07.2022** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned .

Sd/-Chief Engineer Electy.,Transmission Zone,
KPTCL, Ananda Rao Circle,
Bengaluru-560 009, Ph: 080-22356320.

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CACHE

Elon Musk's Twitter deal goes to a Delaware court

For a little over three months, the world's richest man and a big tech social media platform were sparring on micro-blogging site, and inside board rooms. Now, the action will be inside courtrooms

JOHN XAVIER

THE GIST

- On July 8, Elon Musk said he wanted out of the deal and accused the company of withholding data from him.
- The company has sued Mr. Musk, and asked a Delaware court to order the billionaire to complete the deal at the agreed $54.20 per share.
- So, if Mr. Musk chooses to walk away, at best, the court can ask him to pay a penalty for his takeover act.

Since April this year, Elon Musk's offer to buy Twitter for $44 billion kept taking centre stage intermittently, among various other prominent global events. The cat and mouse game between the world's richest man and the micro-blogging site resembled a successful Netflix series.

It had a great plot and an all-star cast, a billionaire attempting a hostile takeover of one of the largest social media platforms to promote freedom of speech. In order to do the same, he uses the very micro-blogging site to criticise its management and the board.

In just over three months, Mr. Musk aggressively sought to buy Twitter. First, he became the platform's largest shareholder. Then, when the company offered him a board seat, he refused it one day before the appointment date. And later, he made his "final offer", which Twitter resisted. The billionaire prevailed. The final twist in this tale is that Mr. Musk decided to not buy the micro-blogging site. And that is how the series' season one finale culminates.

On July 8, Mr. Musk said he wanted out, accusing the company of withholding data from him and saying its statements on spam on the platform represent material misstatements to regulators. In the papers filed, he argued that Twitter was making important changes to the running of its business without his consent.

Don't say 'no'

The world's richest man's cold feet on the Twitter deal comes after a huge slide in the valuation of technology companies, including Tesla, the electric vehicle company he runs. Tesla is the main source of his wealth, and the erosion in its value could significantly reduce the amount of money he brings to the table.

Twitter is not taking no for an answer. The company has sued Mr. Musk, and asked a Delaware court to order the billionaire to complete the deal at the agreed $54.20 per share.

Elon Musk has argued that Twitter was making changes to the running of its business without his consent

The lawsuit sets in motion one of the biggest legal showdowns in the history of corporate America. If the current season played out on social media and board rooms, the next one will be at law firms and court rooms. Some experts point out that Twitter has a solid case against Mr. Musk.

In an interview with *CNN*, Professor Scott Galloway noted that the purchase agreement that Mr. Musk signed with Twitter is seller-friendly. His deduction was based on a legal analysis of nearly 1,200 recent purchase agreements. "This purchase agreement he [Mr. Musk] signed is more seller-friendly than 93% of purchase agreements, meaning this thing [deal] is hermetically sealed, it's so airtight," he said.

But the more important question for Twitter to ponder over is whether Mr. Musk would follow a court order and buy the company as no one can force another party to buy something that they don't want to.

A $44 billion test

According to a report by the *Wall Street Journal*, there have been a few cases of buyers being forced to follow through with purchase agreements under the "specific-performance" clause Mr. Musk agreed to. And most were small deals. The idea of a court ordering a person to complete a deal has not been tested at $44 billion scale.

So, if Mr. Musk chooses to walk away, at best, the court can ask him to pay a penalty for his takeover act. And this could give life to $1 billion break-up fee Mr. Musk agreed to pay Twitter if there is an outside reason for the deal to fall apart, such as regulatory intermediation or third-party financing problems.

The agreement

The break-up fee agreement can be used if the buyer finds out that the target furnished him incorrect information. In this case, Mr. Musk can use the issue of bots on the platform. But these scenarios can play out differently in a courtroom.

There is another probable course of action. Given Mr. Musk's intention to walk away from the deal and Twitter management's animosity towards the Tesla boss, the two parties could go for an out-of-court settlement.

According to Professor Galloway, that settlement price may be based on the difference between Twitter's market capitalisation and Mr. Musk's offer price for the social media firm. And given that investors are continuing to hold on to Twitter's shares because of Mr. Musk's $54.20 per share offer, the market is saying that the claim appears to be valid. This could "ultimately lead to a very large settlement in favour of Twitter shareholders".

So, for now, as the saga moves on to season two, it's party time for white-shoe law firms.

THE DAILY QUIZ

July 18 is celebrated as Nelson Mandela International Day. A quiz on the legendary leader who was born on that date in 1918

1 On Mandela Day, South African citizens are encouraged to spend 67 minutes in service to others in need. Why 67 minutes?

2 Mandela's birth name was Rolihlahla. What does the name mean in his Xhosa tribe language?

3 What is the single biggest contribution of his teacher Miss Mdingane to his persona?

4 One of the great speeches of the 20th century was the three-hour speech delivered by Mandela on April 20, 1964 during the Rivonia Trial. What has the speech been dubbed as?

5 Mandela had a single acting credit to his name, a cameo as a school teacher in Soweto, South Africa, in a 1992 film. Name the movie and its director.

6 With whom did Mandela share the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize?

7 Name his autobiography, ghostwritten by Richard Stengel, that was published in 1994.

8 Name the poem by William Ernest Henley that inspired him and which he read out to his fellow prisoners. A film with the same name had Morgan Freeman playing the great man.

◄ What is the significance of the number 46664 that was used by Mandela for his HIV/AIDS awareness campaign and a series of charity concerts? • REUTERS

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's quiz: 1. Jane Goodall's work as a primatologist studying chimpanzees was inspired by an archaelogist. Name him. **Ans: Louis Leakey**

2. The answer to Question 2, also chose two other female researchers apart from Goodall to study primates. Name the researcher who studied gorilla groups in the forests of Rwanda. **Ans: Diane Fossey**

3. The third primatalogist chosen by the person (answer to Question 2) went on to study orangutans in Borneo and is regarded as the world's leading authority on the ape. Name her. **Ans: Birute Galdikas**

4. The actress, Urmila Matondkar, in the Marathi film "Ajoba", essayed the rolw of which real life leopard expert. **Ans: Vidya Athreya**

5. Name the Padma Shri award winner who pioneered the use of camera traps to estimate the population of animals in the wild. **Ans: Ullas Karanth**

Visual: The spiny lizard found in Namibia derives its scientific name from which biologist. **Ans: David Attenborough**

Early Birds: Parveen Rewri | Ravindra Kumar Sahu | Joseph Varghese | Rupam Kumari

Compiled by: V.V. Ramanan

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

No clowning around brain freezes

The villain is always keen on disposing of the hero

S. UPENDRAN

"Your dad was wearing a very nice kurta yesterday. Any idea where he bought it?"

"He didn't buy it. My mother did. It was his birthday gift."

"Your mother has excellent taste. Does she still have that old sewing machine of hers?"

"Not anymore. It was giving her a lot of trouble. So, she disposed it nearly a year ago."

"She didn't dispose it, she 'disposed of' it. How many times do I have to tell you? Whenever you get rid of something, you 'dispose of' it. For example, my neighbour is unwilling to dispose of his old scooter."

"How about this example? We need to find a way to dispose of nuclear waste."

"Wonderful example. We need to dispose of the stale food before it starts smelling. By the way, 'dispose of' can be used with people as well. In movies, the villain is always keen on disposing of the hero."

"The murderer had a tough time disposing of the girl's body."

"In the past, kings were keen on disposing of their enemies. I heard you ran into my uncle at the supermarket yesterday."

"Yes, I did. It was a bit embarrassing because I just couldn't..."

"I know what happened. He told me all about it. You apparently had brain freeze."

"Brain freeze? What does the word mean?"

"It's a word mostly used in informal context. When you experience brain freeze, your mind stops working momentarily. It happens suddenly. You forget simple facts and..."

"Does it include forgetting the name of a person you've known for a long time?"

"Yes, it does. It could also be that you're unable to think clearly in a situation. The embarrassing thing is that it usually happens when you're in the company of others."

"In others words, it happens in public. Many of our politicians have suffered brain freeze at press conferences and public meetings."

"That's a good example. My cousin was confident of getting the job. Unfortunately, he suffered an embarrassing brain freeze half way through the interview, and it was downhill after that."

"When the police started questioning her, poor Radha had a brain freeze. She became so nervous, she couldn't even remember her address."

"The same thing happened to Jai a couple of months ago. He was..."

"Which Jai are you talking about? The one who is always clowning around or the chap who..."

"Clowning around? Does it mean to act like a clown?"

"That's right! What is it that clowns do?"

"Their main aim is to make people laugh. They do this by acting silly."

"And that is what the expression 'clown around' means – to behave in a silly way. You waste your time by joking around."

"When my mother saw me balancing a pencil on my nose, she told me to stop clowning around and get on with my homework."

"That's a very good example. The kids were clowning around in the dining room, and they accidentally broke the vase."

"My grandfather is nearly 80. But he enjoys clowning around with little kids."

"That's one way to stay young, I suppose."

"My father was always clowning around. It was a huge influence on me. In my family, everything is turned into a joke."

-Mary Lou Williams
upendrankye@gmail.com

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

READ MORE IN-DEPTH CONTENT AT THE HINDU'S WEBSITE
www.thehindu.com

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 18, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- **Explained |** Karnataka's PSI recruitment scam and the rot at the top bit.ly/psiscam
- **Cache |** Elon Musk's Twitter deal goes to a Delaware court bit.ly/muskdeal
- **Know Your English** No clowning around brain freezes bit.ly/kyebrain

Online exclusives:

- **Explained |** Who is Ruja Ignatova and what is the OneCoin crypto fraud? bit.ly/cryptoruja
- **Explained |** The rise of Islamist militancy in Burkina Faso bit.ly/burkinarise
- **Read |** Who will be the next British Prime Minister? All you need to know bit.ly/britishpmrace
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

Rain woes continue to haunt various parts of State

70-year-old woman dies in Kodagu; though there is decline in rainfall in N. Karnataka, the outflow from major reservoirs continues to be high

KARNATAKA BUREAU
BENGALURU

People of various districts continued to be haunted by rain-related problems. While some areas especially Malnad and coastal region continued to receive rains, the northern parts of the State faced the problem of high outflows from reservoirs.

Though there is a decline in rainfall in north Karnataka, the outflow from major reservoirs continued to be high as a precautionary measure. The first rain-related casualty has been reported in Kodagu district with the death of a 70-year-old woman from Shanivarasanthe hobli on Saturday. Vasanthamma, who was injured when a portion of her house collapsed on July 5 following heavy rains, succumbed to injuries at a hospital in Hassan. The victim was a native of Sulugalale village.

Monuments at the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Hampi flooded by the Tungabhadra waters on Sunday. •SRIDHAR KAVALI

An orange alert has been declared in Kodagu till 8.30 a.m. on Monday. Traffic movement on Madikeri-Mangaluru road passing close to the Deputy Commissioners office of Kodagu, has been banned in view of threat to the retaining wall abutting the road. Many parts of Kodagu are experiencing torrential rains for the past several days. Bhagamandala recorded 143.4 mm rain in the last 24 hours while Shanthalli in Somwarpet taluk recorded 141.2 mm rain.

In Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, 47 houses were damaged due to rains in the last 24 hours ending at 8.30 a.m. on Sunday. Of them, 46 were partially damaged, 39 being in Udupi and seven in Dakshina Kannada, and one house was fully damaged in Dakshina Kannada. In addition, 113 electricity poles fell snapping power connectivity in some areas in Dakshina Kannada which recorded 71 mm rainfall during the period against the normal rainfall of 46 mm. As heavy goods vehicles have been banned both in Shiradi Ghat and Sampaje Ghats, they have been forced to take a detour to reach Mangaluru through alternative roads.

Monuments flooded

A few monuments at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi, including Rama Laxmana Temple and Salu Mantapa, remained heavily flooded since Thursday and Chakrateertha, Purandara Dasa Mantapa and the footbridge of Vijayanagara time submerged in the flood waters since Wednesday as the outflow from Tungabhadra reservoir remained high.

The reservoir received water at the rate of 1,68,968 cusecs on an average on Sunday. The authorities were maintaining the outflow of 1,55,596 cusecs as the water level in the reservoir reached the brim a couple of days ago. The Kampli-Gangavati Bridge remained under the overflowing Tungabhadra since Thursday cutting connectivity between Koppal and Ballari districts apart from flooding the areas around Kampli. The Central Water Commission, Krishna and Godavari Basin Organisation, Hyderabad, on Sunday morning issued a forecast alerting about the possibility of floods in Mantralayam in Andhra Pradesh in the event of releasing more water from the Tungabhadra Reservoir.

Rainfall subsided in Belagavi and Baglakot districts on Sunday, though the discharge into the river increased slightly due to the rainfall in Maharashtra.

(With inputs from Shankar Bennur in Mysuru; Rishikesh Bahadur Desai in Belagavi; Raviprasad Kamila in Mangaluru, and Kumar Buradikatti in Kalaburagi.)

75th I-Day: One crore national flags to be hoisted

This is part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that one crore national flags will be hoisted in Karnataka under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme to be organised to mark the country's 75th Independence Day celebrations.

Mr. Bommai attended a virtual meeting with Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, who oversees all efforts under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the programme of 'Har Ghar Tiranga'.

Panel formed

A high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary has been constituted and all Deputy Commissioners, Kannada and Culture Department and police have been conducting meetings for implementation of the programme of 'Har Ghar Tiranga', Mr. Bommai said.

The national flag would be hoisted in all schools, colleges and government office buildings and residential buildings in urban and rural areas of the State, he said.

Various self-help groups in Dharwad district have been making national flags and indent would be placed to supply 50 lakh flags with them, he said.

"The Indian national flag is a symbol of national pride for the entire nation. The programme aims to inspire Indians to hoist the national flag at their home".

Self-help groups and yoga associations, National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers and ex-servicemen have been planning to make the 'Har Ghar Tiranga', a grand success, he said.

Mr. Shah told the Chief Minister to give good publicity to the programme and said 20 crore national flags would be hoisted during the three-day programme from August 13.

Kannada and Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar and senior officials attended the meeting.

State aiming to bring down infant mortality rate to single digit: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said the government was focusing on bringing down infant mortality rate in the State from the present 2% (around 20 per 1,000 live births) to a single digit.

Addressing a Conference on Updates in Speciality Paediatrics organised by the Rainbow Children's Hospital, he advocated the need for bringing down IMR and maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the State.

The IMR and MMR was much lower in the State, except for 5-6 districts, which have dragged the State's health sector down a bit, he said. "So we are giving special focus on these districts. For the first time in the history of the State, we have identified these aspirational taluks. We are working with high parameters on Education, Health, Nutrition, Women and Child Welfare in these taluks".

Mr. Bommai said efforts are being made on a war footing to bring down IMR and MMR in these 5-6 districts and appealed to medical fraternity to join hands with the government in this endeavour.

He said budgetary allocation for health and education has been increased. Programmes were being implemented to eradicate malnutrition. Nutritious food was being served for children at anganwadis and children of the poor working class. The Chief Minister emphasised the role of paediatricians in maintaining the health of a child.

Encourage your children to join Agnipath: DKS to BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

D.K. Shivakumar

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday sarcastically asked the Bharatiya Janata Party leaders to encourage their children to join the Centre's military recruitment scheme Agnipath and serve the country instead of pursuing engineering and medical professions.

"Let the BJP Ministers and leaders encourage their children to join Agnipath scheme to serve the military for four years. Why do their children want to become engineers, doctors and businessmen," he asked.

He was responding to BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's statement that those who oppose Agnipath are "anti-nationals". The Congress has been opposing the scheme on the grounds that it will weaken the country's armed forces. Mr. Yatnal had said that "the Agnipath was not against any religion or community." Asked about the alleged PSI scam, he urged the authorities to conduct narcoanalysis tests on those who were arrested.

Protest

Mr. Shivakumar said the party will take out a Raj Bhavan chalo protest march on July 21 opposing the questioning of AICC president Sonia Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged money laundering case. All party MPs, MLAs, MLCs and leaders would participate in the protest march from Freedom Park to the Raj Bhavan, he said. Leaders would stage protests in front of Central government offices in districts on July 22, he said.

State, NHAI to develop 1,038 lakes near highways

This will help attract tourists and maintain ecological balance in the area: C.C. Patil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Minister for Public Works C.C. Patil on Sunday said 1,038 lakes located near national and State highways in different districts will be rejuvenated in coordination with the National Highway Authority of India.

In a press statement, Mr. Patil said Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari has assured of his Ministry's support for developing these lakes/tanks located near national highways. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai too in the State Budget 2022-23 had mentioned that "desilting of tanks along the national highways of the State and construction of new lakes will be taken up in coordination with the National Highway Authority of India," Mr. Patil said. The Minor Irrigation Department's approval was also sought for developing 1,038 lakes in the State.

Development of lakes would also help in attracting tourists and maintain ecological balance in the area, the Minister said.

Govt. not run by 'original BJP'; it is a coalition regime: Shivakumar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Ridiculing the Bharatiya Janata Party for its alleged internal differences, Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said the State has a coalition government and it is not being run by those from the "original BJP".

He claimed that there were a lot of issues within the ruling party as those who have gone to the BJP from Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) constitute over 60% in the government, and the long-time party loyalists feel that they are being sidelined.

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Shivakumar said: "There is fear in the BJP that there are a lot of internal problems, that is the reason why their national leaders are repeatedly coming and holding discussions with party leaders in Bengaluru. "Original BJP is not running this government, it is a coalition government," the KPCC chief said in reply to a question.

"Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai came from a different party, those who came with the Chief Minister from Janata Dal are about 34%, those who have gone from Congress are 30% and BJP (original) are only about 30%," he said.

Resignation of 17 MLAs from Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) led to the collapse of the coalition government in 2019, paving the way for the formation of the BJP government under the leadership of B.S. Yediyurappa.

Resigned MLAs contested elections and were re-elected to the Assembly. Mr. Bommai, who succeeded Mr. Yediyurappa, had joined the BJP from the Janata Dal (U) ahead of the 2008 Assembly elections.

NEET: Students find chemistry paper tough, biology lengthy

Over one lakh had registered for the examination

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Students outside an examination centre in Bengaluru on Sunday. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

With the exception of chemistry, all the other subjects were found to be on a moderate level by students who wrote the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG)-2022, which was conducted on Sunday by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Over one lakh students from the State had registered for the exam. Anxious parents and students had assembled in front of the exam centres from 10.30 a.m. itself, even though the examination started at 2 p.m.

While some students gave their second and third attempts, most of them were writing the exams for the first time. Those who had written it in previous years found that a few questions were repeated. "This was my second attempt. I prepared with determination and I am happy with this attempt. Some questions which had appeared last year were in this year's question paper too," said Hemashree V., who wrote her exam at a centre in Malleswaram.

Some students also felt that the structure of questions this year had varied from those in model question papers. Some said that the biology section was lengthier than the others. "I found chemistry pretty hard and biology was lengthy. The concepts were all the same yet the questions were structured very differently," said Shishil Kumar, a student. The students who wrote their examinations will be selected for 10,260 seats in 63 medical colleges across the State.

The students were nervous about their chances. "Only 10% of the total candidates who write will get those seats. I am a little scared about chemistry. It was tough," said a candidate at a centre in Yelahanka.

"From September, I had started my preparation and I think I can score well," said a hopeful candidate Sharan Kumar at an exam centre in Malleswaram.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Catching them young

The Legislative Assembly is scheduled to go for elections in April-May 2023. Many ticket aspirants and MLAs seeking re-election are already busy, engaging themselves with voters. A couple of leaders, hoping to get a chance to contest as candidates of major political parties, are visiting villages and interacting with people. Hassan MLA Preetham J. Gowda of BJP recently felicitated nearly 4,000 students who cleared SSLC with a high score. Besides a memento and a bag, each student received a cash prize. Those students who scored above 85% received ₹5,000 and those securing less received ₹3,000 each. The total cash component alone crossed ₹1.6 crore. Many people pointed out that the MLA was reaching out to his voters through students. Of course, the Election Commission of India cannot take this expenditure into account as the elections will be declared only next year.

MLA's 'immunity letter'

Is it not a disgrace to a ruling party MLA when his close aide is being "harassed" repeatedly by authorities for owning a vehicle bearing registration number of another State? So thinks MLA of Shirahatti Ramappa Lamani. Deciding to resolve this, he got a "certificate" of sorts to provide immunity to his aide from the "harassment".

In a letter addressed to "whomsoever it may concern", he named his aide G. Basavaraj, a resident of Belagatti in Shirahatti taluk, as his acquaintance and a party worker. He mentioned the vehicle's registration number and said that nobody should seize the vehicle and trouble him.

But real trouble started after the letter went viral on social media leading to severe backlash. Even as the beneficiary claimed that he got the letter from the MLA to prevent repeated harassment by police, the MLA, who realised his folly rather late, contended that he might have signed the letter when there was commotion around him without knowing its contents. He even said that he would sue the "beneficiary" for getting such a letter signed by him. As on date, however, nothing of that sort has happened.

Weighing loyalties

Amidst much talk in the media of "camps" loyal to him and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar within the Congress, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah at a recent press conference said that all party MLAs and leaders were loyal to him. He mentioned names of Priyank Kharge, MLA, who was sitting next to him on the dais, and Dinesh Guligowda, MLC, who too was present. He took a jibe at journalists who are repeatedly writing about his "loyalists." Mr. Siddaramaiah went on and asked with a smile, "Are you (journalists) not loyal to me?" When journalists would still not let go and asked if Mr. Shivakumar was loyal to him, Mr. Siddaramaiah did not reply, while the KPCC chief was sitting next to him. A couple of days later, both leaders held a much-publicised breakfast meeting and discussed party matters.

SATHISH G.T.
GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
NAGESH PRABHU

If you thought arthritis was reserved for those over 50, think again. A sedentary lifestyle and neglect of overall wellbeing causes many youngsters and even children to face serious health issues, like arthritis, which interferes with one's quality of life and general functioning.

There are over 100 different types of arthritis and related conditions that affect the musculoskeletal system, specifically the joints. The most common form of arthritis is osteoarthritis, which occurs with age, leading to pain, stiffness, inflamed joints, and reduced mobility.

Experts from SBF Healthcare say that their pioneering Sequentially Programmed Magnetic Field (SPMF) therapy regenerates the cartilage and restores mobility of joints. This technology is a non-invasive, painless and a safe method that gets you back on your feet.

Deepak RK Sharma, whose mother was suffering from knee pain, says, "SBF has excellent technology in healing joint pain. My mother got treated in 2015 and found great improvement. I have also got treated recently and felt an improvement."

Shardaben Patel says, "My mother was treated in 2013. Before that, she couldn't get up from a chair. We were advised to do Total Knee Replacement surgery, but didn't. After 21 days of treatment, she felt much better. It's been many years now and she can climb stairs and sit on the floor cross-legged. I am grateful to SBF Healthcare."

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We need to reframe our relationship with failure by taking the stigma and fear out of it

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What does it mean to fail?

■ SALIL SAHADEVAN

I bet you have an aunt whose concern sprouts when your exam results are out, or a neighbour who is nosy about the details of your percentile. These well-meaning people and the rest of us, who are fearful of all failures, collectively build a society biased towards success. As a result, the social construction of failure involves a feeling of shame, disappointment and an inability to achieve goals.

The stepping stone proverb or Edison's filament story do not console. It does not merit repeating that most successful individuals encountered failure. Why? Because we are led to believe that failure is the opposite of success. On the contrary, failure can be a portal of discovery and a flavour of progress.

Failing successfully

There is a growing realisation about the value of failures. Duke University has a course titled 'Learning to Fail'. It explores ways of using failure as a strategy for learning and experimenting. Down south, a panchayat in Kerala organised trips for those who could not clear the Class 10 exams. An entrepreneur in Tamil Nadu provides a fully-paid stay for students who failed in the Board exams. Many of these initiatives come with counselling and career guidance. The idea is not to encourage failure, but to change the way we look at it.

Those who have never faced failure have a critical gap in their personal experience. Many venture capitalists will not invest in start-up founders who have never failed. Start-ups want to get the warning signals as early and as fast as possible. Thus, failing fast, failing early and failing safely allows them to change course when something does not work.

Leveraging failure

An exam failure may affect your immediate admission potential. Yet, with course correction, your experience of failure and resilience will grow. Some failures are preventable, such as losing an exam, despite having the ability. Some other complex failures may occur due to internal and external factors working together, such as in a crop failure. Then there are intellectual failures that happen due to a lack of understanding of the cause-effect relationships.

Accept failure as part of the journey, instead of distorting or denying it. First, reflect on what success and failure look like for you, abandoning the pressures of society. Second, keep your options open and find out what did not work in your approach. See which of your choices, such as time, actions, methods or ingrained habits need correction. Third, radically innovate your learning practices and life or do a fresh iteration of your current practices.

Resume of failures

For a moment, stop bragging about your success on social media. Imagine a CV of your failures. We fail often but these remain invisible, or we conceal them. List the scholarships that you did not get. Record the positions that you did not hold. That is what Professors like Johannes Haushofer at Princeton and Melanie Stefan from the University of Edinburgh did in separate attempts. The CV of their failures were longer than the regular one. Conferences like FailCon and MIT's FAIL! gather people from various countries to share their failures. Failure is not paradoxical to success; it is just another outcome to humble us.

Failing gracefully

This is not to idealise or celebrate failures. Nor is it to demean or disgrace success. Even while the social convenience of success and failures persists, we can renounce such subjective labels and be more tolerant of academic failures. As a society, we can seek practical ways to reframe failure as a portal of discovery, as a moment for iteration and as a point for way-finding.

Anyone who has done anything significant has failed in some way. If you experiment with bold ideas, get ready to fail more. Professor Sim Sitkin calls such setbacks as 'intelligent failures'. Excellent failures are better than mediocre successes. Wish you intelligent failures and the courage to continue.

Views expressed are personal

The writer is Deputy Secretary with University Grants Commission.

SCHOLARSHIPS

IET India Scholarship Awards

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) aims to recognise and nurture future engineering leaders of India.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to students of a full-time regular undergraduate Engineering programme (in any field) at an AICTE/UGC-approved institution. Also open to lateral entry students who join the B.Tech programme in the second year. They must have cleared all regular credit courses in a single attempt. Applicants must have scored at least 60% in aggregate or equivalent CGPA of at least 6.5 on a 10-point scale in the semesters cleared so far.

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LIC HFL Vidyadhan Scholarship

LIC HFL aims to support students from low-income and crisis-ridden families.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Indian students who are currently studying in Class 11 or first year of graduation or post-graduation programmes. Applicants must have scored more than 60% marks in their previous qualifying examination. Annual family income must not be more than ₹3,60,000 from all sources.

REWARDS: Up to ₹20,000

APPLICATION: Online

DEADLINE: September 30

b4s.in/edge/LHVT3

Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar

An initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India to award Indian children below 18 years of age for their merit in innovation, scholastic, sports, arts, culture, social service, music or any other fields.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to Indian children who are below 18 years of age, as of August 31 of the respective year.

REWARDS: Variable awards

DEADLINE: August 31

APPLICATION: Online

b4s.in/edge/PRP7

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

SAVE THE DATE

■ Master of Arts in Built Environment Journalism

Anant National University recently launched its two-year, full-time Master of Arts in Built Environment Journalism programme.

ELIGIBILITY: A recognised undergraduate degree in any discipline with a minimum of 50% marks.

DEADLINE: July 24

https://bit.ly/3nUODwr

■ The Governance Challenge 2022

Samagra has launched The Governance Challenge (TGC) 2022, India's first national governance case competition.

The top three teams will win cash prizes worth ₹9,00,000 along with goodies, certificates, and individual Pre-Placement Interview (PPI) opportunities with Samagra. The competition will have three rounds and participating teams will be provided with the required support, with respect to reference materials, feedback, mentorship and so on.

LAST DATE: July 29.

REGISTER: https://bit.ly/TheGovernanceChallenge

■ Undergraduate degree in Culinary Arts

The Indian School of Hospitality is accepting applications for its undergraduate degree in Culinary Arts.

ELIGIBILITY: 50% marks in class 12 with English as a subject. International Baccalaureate students – Diploma Candidates in their class 12 or equivalent class can also apply, provided they have completed their final exam and can produce passing certificate before August 31

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When Asian Games paved the way for 'Anayoottu' in Kerala

Ritual was started to help elephants paraded at the 1982 Games' opening ceremony regain health after the long journey

MINI MURINGATHERI
THRISSUR

Anayoottu, an annual ritual at the Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur, with more than 50 elephants fed special food from Sunday, is done to propitiate Lord Ganesha, who, according to Hindu belief, removes obstacles in one's life.

But there is a history behind this annual ritual at the temple, say temple sources.

According to them, Kerala's elephant *pooram* was selected, along with other cultural forms of the country, for display at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games held in Delhi in 1982. It was a herculean task to transport the elephants all the way to Delhi. K.C. Panicker, veterinary surgeon and elephant treatment specialist, took the responsibility with the support of devaswoms and elephant owners.

Long journey: Elephants being taken on a train for the opening ceremony of the Asian Games held in Delhi in 1982. • FILE PHOTO

A trial run of the train carrying the elephants was conducted from Thrissur to Ernakulam before the trip.

Thirty-four majestic elephants from across the State were selected and readied for the journey. Many of them belonged to the Guruvayur temple from Punnathur Kotta.

The elephants included Kuttinarayanan of Guruvayur Devaswom, later came to be known as Asiad Appu, the mascot of the Asian Games, three-year-old Pushpa, four-year-old Nisha, five-year-old Sunitha and seven-year-old Rashmi.

A 264-member team, including 112 mahouts, 80 helpers, six veterinary experts and 21 police personnel, accompanied the elephants to Delhi. On the train with 28 bogies, 13 were open ones for adult elephants and eight boxed ones were for calves. Four elephants were tranquilised before being taken to the bogies. Water was taken in four bogies and palm leaves in three.

Total support

Despite protests from various quarters, the train carrying the elephants was flagged off by the then Chief Minister K. Karunakaran on *Kerala Piravi* Day on November 1, 1982. The Railways, which extended total support for the mission, provided help at various stations. Considering the safety of elephants, the average speed of the train was 18 kmph and a comparatively short route with less risk was chosen for the journey. Covering 3,011 km in around 165 hours, the train reached the Tuglakabad railway station in New Delhi on November 8.

After participating successfully in the parade at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games, the elephants returned. But the long journey made many of them sick and weak.

To help them regain health, *Anayoottu* was started at the Sree Vadakkunnathan Temple, where special nutritious food was fed to the pachyderms.

Later the ritual was conducted on the first day of every *Karkkidakam* of the Malayalam calendar. Later many other temples in the State replicated *Anayoottu*.

SPECIAL

'Delta, sub-lineages dominant from July to Oct. 21'

The first Omicron presence in India was detected in late November 2021, reveals study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Delta variant and its sub-lineages were dominant from July to October 2021 and the first Omicron presence in India was detected in late November 2021, revealed the findings of a COVID-19 genomic surveillance initiative, of sequencing 12,800 SARS-CoV-2 samples from Bengaluru, which were released here on Sunday.

The findings were released by Strand Life Sciences, a genomics-based research and diagnostics company, as a part of the '*Celebrating Covid Genomic Sequencing and Surveillance effort in Karnataka*' event.

RT-PCR positive samples were collected between July, 2021, and June, 2022, from various laboratories in Bengaluru, sequenced, and analysed.

According to a release, in the 12,800 samples sequenced, over 100 lineages were found. As many as 44.4% of these were Delta and its 75 sub-lineages.

Rapid growth

After the Omicron variant was first detected in November, it grew rapidly to close to 100% by the end of January 2022, and the Delta sub-lineages were no longer visible.

"There were a total of ~30 Omicron sub-lineages identified, of which BA.1, BA.2, BA.2.10, BA.3 were notable. BA.2 and its sub-lineages dominated from January to May 2022, while BA.1 and BA.3 also retained some presence. A small presence of BA.5 was detected in April and May 2022. In June 2022, BA.2 and its sub-lineages continued to dominate at 74%, albeit reduced from 94%," said the release.

It went on to say that BA.5 and its sub-lineages recorded substantial growth to 20% in June 2022 and appeared as the leading contenders to unseat BA.2 and its sub-lineages. BA.4 also appeared at 2%.

Findings conveyed

The findings were conveyed to the State government and the BBMP public health officials in conjunction with INSACOG (Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genetics Consortium) labs like InStem, the key stakeholders for the project, said the release.

Vishal U.S. Rao, member of Genomic Surveillance Committee, Karnataka, and Director, Head and Neck Oncology, HCG Cancer Hospital, said, "As new variants of the virus continue to emerge, genomic surveillance has an important role to play in bringing the pandemic under control. In order to contribute effectively, we must continue to build tools and sustainable systems for genomic surveillance which can then be leveraged to other pathogens. We plan to continue sequencing of human SARS-CoV-2 cases to ensure that public health officials stay informed and implement appropriate measures".

Ex-CM says 'no' to Chamundeshwari

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday rejected fresh calls that he contest from the Chamundeshwari constituency in the Assembly elections.

'No decision yet'

Responding to appeals from his supporters, Mr. Siddaramaiah, while addressing a gathering at the party office here, not only made the above point clear but also added that he had not yet finalised his constituency.

"I have not decided from where I should contest, but Chamundeshwari is ruled out," he said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, East Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.4	35.4	27.0	Kozhikode	–	29.0	24.2
Ahmedabad	5.0	32.9	26.5	Kurnool	–	32.2	24.2
Aizawl	4.0	28.2	22.0	Lucknow	9.0	37.7	29.6
Allahabad	–	39.0	29.0	Madurai	–	37.4	25.6
Bengaluru	5.0	27.5	20.2	Mangaluru	35.3	28.8	23.4
Bhopal	0.5	31.5	25.0	Mumbai	13.0	30.2	25.2
Bhubaneswar	43.0	31.7	24.4	Mysuru	–	26.4	20.0
Chandigarh	52.0	34.4	24.3	New Delhi	–	35.0	23.6
Chennai	2.0	32.7	24.8	Patna	–	37.2	27.5
Coimbatore	0.1	31.2	22.2	Port Blair	23.0	30.0	24.2
Dehradun	13.0	34.7	23.2	Puducherry	0.6	35.4	25.2
Gangtok	–	25.2	18.6	Pune	4.8	29.6	22.4
Goa	71.0	30.2	23.9	Raipur	48.2	30.6	25.6
Guwahati	0.4	33.8	27.0	Ranchi	6.0	28.0	22.6
Hubballi	–	27.0	22.0	Shillong	29.0	25.6	18.0
Hyderabad	0.7	28.6	22.8	Shimla	18.0	26.0	19.6
Imphal	–	33.4	22.4	Srinagar	4.0	29.0	18.0
Jaipur	18.0	33.4	25.7	Thiruvananthapuram	0.8	30.4	24.4
Kochi	12.0	30.4	24.0	Tiruchi	–	37.6	27.5
Kohima	–	27.7	18.8	Vijayawada	0.2	33.0	26.6
Kolkata	11.0	33.7	27.2	Visakhapatnam	1.0	29.4	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	35	15	47	32	66	
Bengaluru	9	21	20	69	101	
Chennai	–	5	65	23	40	
Delhi	19	31	59	51	53	
Hyderabad	4	3	75	20	35	
Kolkata	12	12	15	24	38	
Lucknow	11	55	36	54	72	
Mumbai	28	3	46	34	148	
Pune	–	15	62	31	27	
Visakhapatnam	16	38	39	54	91	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Saharsa, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 126 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Gummidipoondi, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 8

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

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This one for farmers

The BJP is seeking to appease a dominant farming community with its choice for V-P

The numbers are clearly stacked in favour of Jagdeep Dhankhar, the National Democratic Alliance candidate for the office of the Vice-President. The Opposition – 17 parties attended a joint meeting on Sunday – has announced Congress leader Margaret Alva as its candidate. Mr. Dhankhar, who joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2003 after initial stints in the Janata Dal and Congress, has remained a loyal soldier of the party and its current leadership. Even the office that he currently holds, the Governor of West Bengal, has not come in the way of his party loyalty. He has had continuous public confrontations with the elected government led by the TMC's Mamata Banerjee. On many occasions, it appeared that Mr. Dhankhar was playing a partisan role in State politics, in tandem with the BJP. While announcing his candidacy, the BJP has described him as the son of a farmer – a much cliched, still potent labelling that politicians claim. The claim has specific meaning in this context, as Mr. Dhankhar hails from the Jat community, a landowning dominant caste in parts of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan. The community's stiff resistance was among the reasons that forced the Centre to withdraw the three farm laws in 2021. A considerable segment of Jats had stayed with the BJP in this year's Assembly election in U.P., and Mr. Dhankhar's elevation will strengthen the BJP's hold over the community, particularly in his home State of Rajasthan that goes to polls in 2023.

For the Opposition, elections to the posts of President and Vice-President would have been an opportunity to advance its politics. On that count, it seemed to have done a poor job. Ms. Alva's entry onto the scene is unlikely to move the needle for Opposition politics in any impactful manner. She, like the Opposition candidate for President, Yashwant Sinha, is a forceful speaker but does not mobilise any political constituency. She comes from Karnataka, a State that goes to the polls next year, but there is little that her candidacy will contribute to the Congress in the State or Opposition politics in general at a national level. As it stands, Mr. Dhankhar is all set to become the Vice-President of the country who is also the Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha – two offices that require occupants to be unfailingly non-partisan. They are expected to adhere to rules and the Constitution on the one hand, and on the other, innovate to ensure smooth relations between the government and the Opposition. Mr. Dhankhar should strive to build better relations between the Government and the Opposition, and to uphold the honour of the Upper House. There is a transition that he might struggle to effect, given the temperament he has displayed so far, as he steps into a new national role.

Biden in West Asia

Neither the Palestine question nor the Iran deal appear to be the U.S.'s priorities

In his first visit to West Asia as President, Joe Biden sought to strengthen America's traditional partnerships and alliances in the region, involving Israel and Sunni Arab countries. In Israel, he promised that the U.S. would do everything it could to stop Iran from getting a nuclear bomb. In his brief visit to the Palestinian West Bank, he was careful not to criticise the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories. He promised aid, but said the ground situation was not ready for reviving the peace process. In Saudi Arabia, Mr. Biden met Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince who, according to the CIA, ordered the 2018 killing of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The visit practically brought to an end Washington's early attempts to punish and isolate Prince Mohammed. Later, in a summit with Arab leaders in Jeddah, he said the U.S. would not walk away from West Asia, leaving a vacuum which China, Russia or Iran would try to fill. President Biden may have said that "human rights will be the centre of our foreign policy", but in West Asia, neither Israel's violent occupation of Palestinian territories nor the abysmal rights records of the Sunni Arab dictators and monarchs stopped the American President from pursuing his administration's foreign policy objectives.

Gone are the days when the Israel-Palestine issue dominated an American President's foreign policy agenda towards West Asia. Barack Obama, after his initial peace plan failed, focused his energy on the Iran nuclear talks. Donald Trump's proposal ignored the Palestinians and his focus was on the Abraham Accords, which saw the normalisation of ties between Israel and Sunni Arabs. Mr. Biden did not even touch upon the Palestine question. He has two clear objectives – regional balance and energy security. As the Iran nuclear talks have hit an impasse, he seeks to accelerate cooperation between Israel and Sunni Arabs, the pillars of America's West Asia policy. Mr. Trump launched this policy through the Abraham Accords, and Mr. Biden has wholeheartedly embraced it. Second, as the Biden administration seeks to punish Russia's Vladimir Putin for his Ukraine invasion, it needs Saudi Arabia to pump more oil into the international market, disrupted by the western oil sanctions on Russia. But it remains an uncertain bet. Saudi Arabia, with its warm ties with Russia, has spare capacity, but it is not clear whether a Saudi production rise alone would stabilise the energy market if Russia prolonged the war. More importantly, building a bloc against Iran would not resolve the Iran problem. It would only worsen the security competition in West Asia. Meaningful solutions to Mr. Biden's problems lie in ending the war in Ukraine and reviving the Iran nuclear deal, forcing the Islamic Republic and its rivals into a cold peace. The first is not in Mr. Biden's hands and the second does not seem to be his priority.

Two messages from three photographs

These three images reveal far more than what the appellation 'the world's largest democracy' does

PETER RONALD DESOUZA

In recent days, three photographs have received wide publicity. They tell an interesting story about the nature of Indian democracy. We normally moan about the failures of our politics by quoting statistics, commenting on executive silences, lamenting judicial inaction, or analysing harmful policy impacts. Rarely do we refer to a photograph to make a political point. Yet, these three photographs are very telling in what they reveal about our democracy. Over the years we have resisted being described as a 'flawed democracy', or a 'developing democracy, or even as just an electoral democracy (in preference to its alternative an electoral autocracy) and have indicated that the appellation we are happy with is the world's largest democracy. But this appellation does not tell us much about our evolution as a democratic nation.

In Maharashtra

The three photographs do. Limited as they are, they give us abundant material for critical discussion. The first photograph is of Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari stuffing the mouth of Eknath Shinde, the newly sworn-in Chief Minister of Maharashtra, with a *mithai*. We have seen party presidents, in celebration, stuff the mouths of Chief Minister designates with *ladoos*. This is to be expected, even normal, in our new political *Parampara*. But when a Governor happily did so, many of us raised our eyebrows not sure about its acceptability. Are Governors not expected to be equidistant between winning and losing candidates? Does the impartiality of office require no public display of excessive joy by the Governor unless it is to establish the legitimacy of the constitutional process? Is a handshake enough for this display or perhaps a namaste, but stuffing the victor's mouth with a *ladoo*? Is that right? Over the years one has not seen many photographs of Governors stuffing the mouth of new office bearers with *ladoos*. None really. This was a rare photograph.

In our zest to decolonise, like we did when we replaced 'Abide with me' with '*Aye Mere Watan ke Logon*' during the Beating Retreat ceremony on January 29, 2022, we could argue that this was an act of decolonisation. In our Indian democracy this is how we do things. Decolonisation is a powerful reason to replace the shaking of hands with the stuffing of *ladoos* for by doing so, we are Indianising our political culture, making it desi. Should the President of India then do the same after swearing in the Chief Justice of India? A Chief Justice of India with a *ladoo* in his mouth would make for a great visual.

I am not being facetious here when I belabour this point of Governor Koshyari having seemingly transgressed an important symbolic line of our democracy. Propriety defines where this line should lie. Protocol reinforces it. In fact, many protocol books, part of the paraphernalia of government, set out the rules of permitted and proscribed behaviour. Protocol officers are tasked with the job of advising holders of office on what should and can be done. The Koshyari photograph shows that everyone, all officials who accompanied the Governor, even the

AFP

gentlemen in uniform, approved the celebration. Which means it passed the propriety requirement. The ambiguity hence lies with us and not them, democratic theorists and not democratic practitioners.

A new class, a sanctity

This judgment on transgression of propriety is, however, more easily made in the second photograph which shows the Shiv Sena rebel Members of the Legislative Assembly dancing on tables in a hotel in Goa after the announcement of Eknath Shinde as the new Chief Minister. This is a new meaning to tabling a no-confidence resolution. Some officials from the hotel had to dissuade them from persisting with the practice. For elected representatives to show their joy by dancing on tables is an unusual expression of our democratic culture.

Perhaps we must shed our diffidence once and for all of wanting our democracy to meet standards of public behaviour crafted in the West. A new class of representatives has entered the public domain and so it is not reasonable to expect them to act in ways they are unused to, like those stuffy Etonians. Boris Johnson is hardly the model to follow. Why should we seek certificates from elsewhere?

If we persist with this line of thinking, however, the third photograph throws us out of gear. It is the solemn photograph of the Prime Minister handing over the nomination forms of the presidential candidate, Droupadi Murmu, to the designated electoral officer. In this photograph I want us to focus only on the official who continues to be seated. When the most powerful person in the country, and perhaps one of the most powerful Prime Ministers of India, stands before a middle-ranking official of the Indian state to hand him some forms, propriety requires that the official keep sitting. At that moment he is after all, the embodiment of the Constitution. Irrespective of who is before him the authority that he is given by the Constitution, to accept the forms, makes him the most important authority in the room. The propriety of the nomination process requires that the supreme authority of the Constitution be on display. It was. It could not have been easy for him to keep sitting before the Prime Minister, and we may even have forgiven him if he stood, but he kept sitting. Few probably even recognise his name or his face now, days later, but at that moment all eyes were on him. As the electoral officer he was required to display the authority of his office, which he did without a moment's hesitation. No transgression. Unlike Governor Koshyari. No *pedas* were distributed. And there was no dancing on tables either.

The contrasts

I am not stretching the point. The three photographs have contrasting messages, two on one side, one on the other, two suggesting transgressions of constitutional propriety, one indicating conformity with it. Propriety is an important component of any society. We get up to offer a seat to an elderly person on a bus. We touch the feet of the people we respect. We garland successful winners and offer *ladoos* to those who have secured good marks in examinations. India is a ritually dense society. It affirms our sense of ourselves as a common community. This, in itself, is good.

Decolonisation of democracy

As a post-colonial society, however, we need to decide which rituals, inherited from the colonial past, we wish to keep and which we wish to discard. Some years ago, in the Supreme Court of India, lawyers were asked to discard the use of 'Milord' (my lord) when referring to members of the Bench. Breaking coconuts has replaced the breaking of a champagne bottle on the hull of a ship when it is launched. Yes, we need to craft new rituals for our democratic society, to give it Indian adornments. This is necessary to uphold the sanctity of office and the greater sanctity of the Constitution from which all authority flows. If this sanctity is diminished, then the distinction between politician and official gets lost. The umpire becomes a player. Impartiality of office evaporates without which the state becomes an instrument of rule by the most powerful, or the most cunning, or the most resourceful. I am not sure that MLAs dancing on tables, or the Governor stuffing *ladoos* in the mouth of a Chief Minister elect's mouth, meets this standard of propriety.

Peter Ronald deSouza is the DD Kosambi Visiting Professor at Goa University. He has recently co-edited a book, 'Companion to Indian Democracy: Resilience, Fragility, Ambivalence'. The views expressed are personal

A lacklustre presidential race in the making

Democrats and Republicans have to brace themselves for soul searching and painful decision-making before 2024

SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI

The American presidential election of 2024 promises to be a rare treat for all those interested in politics and political campaigning. Both Democrats and Republicans have to brace themselves not only for some soul searching but also for painful decisions. The conventional norm is that a sitting President is not challenged in the primaries should he choose to run for re-election. And the Democratic incumbent, Joseph Biden, has made it amply clear that he is running for re-election.

Which way the wind blows

But here is the problem: two thirds of Democrats in a recent poll do not want him to run; and 94% of Democrats under the age of 30 want someone besides Mr. Biden on the ticket. Only 26% in the survey conducted by *The New York Times* and Siena College want Mr. Biden in 2024. For those who are opposed to the President within the party, 33% cite his age (he is 79 years old) and 32% because of job performance.

Forget the polling among the Democrats. A Gallup Poll showed historic low approval ratings for Mr. Biden with 33% saying that he deserves to be re-elected and 67% opining otherwise. Worse, only 13% believe that the country is headed in the right direction with a whopping 77% saying that it is on the wrong path. Analysts have not forgotten to point out that Mr. Biden's current standing is four points lower than the level of support for President Donald Trump in an April 2018 survey.

Mr. Biden's sorry state of affairs in polls does not mean good news for the Republican Party or for Mr. Trump, who has expressed interest in contesting again in 2024. *The New York Times*/Siena College poll also shows that nearly 50% of Republican primary voters are not looking at Mr. Trump but a new candidate in the next presidential election. What would come as a jolt to the supporters of the 45th President (Mr. Trump) is that 64% of those under 35 years and 65% of those who are college educated are against the re-election of Mr. Trump.

In a Republican Party stack of hopefuls, Mr. Trump still leads the pack with the Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis coming in second; but other possibilities such as Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, the former Vice-President, Mike Pence, the former Governor of South Carolina, Nikki Haley, and the former Congressman and Secretary of

AFP

State, Mike Pompeo, all having support only in single digits. Mr. Trump is not only a problem for the Republican Party but also for himself, given the civil cases and potential criminal charges that the Justice Department could think about once the Congressional investigations into the January 6 rioting and instigation at Capitol Hill come to a close. Prominent Republicans may say that they are not glued to the television, but the committee investigating the riots has seen testimonies from former Trump aides of the potentially criminal role of the former President.

Biden versus Trump

Perhaps the only bright spot for Mr. Biden is that among registered voters he gets the better of Mr. Trump, but only narrowly – 44% to 41%; and his refrain that 92% of Democrats support him if he ran in 2024 is misleading. This 92% of Democrats would vote for him if his opponent was Donald Trump, the poll showed. The problem for the Democratic Party is how to get the Biden White House re-organised for a real showdown in 2024 with or without Mr. Trump. Mr. Biden is already being compared with the Presidency of Jimmy Carter (1977-1981) and the last thing the Democrats want is a bruising primary along the lines of the show put up by Senator Edward Kennedy in 1980 with delegates nearly coming to blows at the party convention.

Issue for the Republicans

The Republicans have a different problem: privately, it would seem that a good majority of the party conservatives and elders have no stomach for Mr. Trump and his antics; but very few of them seem to have the courage to tell the former President off. In fact, senior Republicans are hoping that Mr. Trump does not make his presidential announcement before the mid-terms of November 8, where the Grand Old Party is expected to make huge inroads in the House of Representatives and perhaps even take control of the Senate. The Republicans are banking on making the most of a perceived-to-be fumbling Biden presidency on the economy, fuel prices and inflation; rather than get side-tracked on reruns of outrageous and bogus claims of fraud in the 2020 presidential election. The Republican Party wants a Biden focus for the midterms, not on Mr. Trump.

November 2024 might seem a long way off but certainly not for the two major parties that will be striving to hold themselves together in the face of internal challenges. Should President Biden suddenly decide not to run for re-election or face a primary challenge, it could be worse than a rerun of the Carter era, with Vice-President Kamala Harris not necessarily being the front runner. Right now her standing in the polls is as good or worse than that of her President; and not many Democrats will be convinced that she is a strong candidate.

It is not the revolving door presidency that scares the Republicans when they think of a return of Donald Trump to the White House. It is in a Republican Party Pool that will enable the former President to come away on top as it happened in 2016; or a miffed Mr. Trump running as an independent in case the party musters the courage to tell him to back down. In more ways than one, the showdown some 18 months down the line will be a turning point for both the Democrats and Republicans as they make a choice for the future of America; not continue with worn-out debates and conspiracy theories over winning and losing.

Sridhar Krishnaswami was a senior journalist in Washington for 14 years covering North America and the United Nations

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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V-P candidate

The National Democratic Alliance's choice of the West Bengal Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, as its vice-presidential candidate appears to be ominous given his track record as the Governor of West Bengal where he quite often went beyond his constitutional obligations to bat for a national party.

In the scheme of our Republic, the post of Vice-President is not of much consequence. However, in his second post, as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Vice-President plays a key role in controlling the proceedings and can be helpful in smothering Opposition voices in the House. Was this a factor that weighed with the Bharatiya Janata Party?

MANOHAR ALEMBATH,
Kannur, Kerala

■ It is clear that the Opposition has lost the plot once again as far as the vice-presidential election is concerned. All the parties under the Opposition umbrella cut a very sorry figure.

S. VENKATARAMAN,
Hyderabad

Allegations and Gujarat

To say that Sonia Gandhi, Ahmed Patel and Teesta Setalvad conspired to defame the country's top leader and destabilise his government in the aftermath of the Gujarat riots might be stretching the truth too far. Seeking justice for the victims and punishment for the instigators and perpetrators cannot be defined or termed as a conspiracy. One can understand the attempts made, sometimes desperately, to absolve the top leader of any responsibility for the carnage. But implicating political rivals and human rights activists and shifting the blame onto them borders on the diabolical. It is hard to erase former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's counsel to observe *raj dharma*, or the duties of a ruler, and the judiciary's observations in the context of the mass killings. The ruling party owes an explanation to the nation as to why it did not prosecute Ahmed Patel for the alleged conspiracy when he was alive, if the charge was not mischievous and manufactured.

G. DAVID MELTON,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

■ The Teesta Setalvad case is taking a curious turn. What is the intention of the SIT going forward? Does it want a fair probe or want to discredit the Congress party by any means so as to cover up the truth?

V. PADMANABHAN,
Bengaluru

Prathap Pothen

Among many films Prathap Pothen starred in, what stand out are *Moodu Pani*, *Nenjathai Killadey*, *Panneer Pushpangal* and *Varunayin Niram Sirappu*. As Suhasini Maniratnam has brought out in her tribute, Prathap Pothen was more an underplayed actor than an underrated one. In his passing, the film world has lost a very natural actor.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

■ Prathap Pothen was the unruffled person who always liked to wear a thinker's cap. He outshone many of his blue-eyed fellow swashbuckler-heroes who went about acting in an artificial way. With his down-to-earth portrayals, he remained a cool reclusive cat in the rat race to superstardom that Tamil and Malayalam cinema witnessed in the 1980s.

M.R. ANAND,
Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh

■ What a vibrant actor he was. He was a unique character actor. The evergreen super hit song, '*Poovannam Pola Nenjam*', in the box-office hit, '*Azhiyadha Kolangal*', will be cherished – Prathap Pothen and Shobha did justice to the roles. In a way, Prathap Pothen by himself will be remembered as an '*Azhiyadha Kolangal*' to his fans.

A.P. THIRUVADI,
Chennai

New plant species

A new plant species has been discovered in Idukki district, Kerala, by botany researchers at St. Albert's College (autonomous) Ernakulam, Kerala. The plant was identified at *Chokramudi kudi* in Bison Valley, Idukki, during a botanical expedition focusing on vascular epiphytes of the tropical montane cloud forests in the southern Western Ghats. This epiphytic plant belongs to the Piperaceae family (that comprises the pepper plant, betel leaves, etc.) which falls under the genus *Peperomia*. This plant has been named '*Peperomia albertiae*' to mark the discovery by the college.

The study report was published in the March edition of the *Kew Bulletin* of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, published by Springer.

ARJUN THOMAS,
J. JAMESON,
Ernakulam, Kerala

Preserving democracy in India

The presence of a vigilant Opposition is necessary not just for a vibrant democracy but for its very survival

DUSHYANT DAVE

In January 2014, while addressing the Vijay Sankalp rally in Goa, Narendra Modi called on the audience to vote for a "Congress-mukt Bharat". He said, "Be it dynasty politics, nepotism, corruption, communalism, divisions in society or poverty, getting freedom from all this is what I mean by a Congress-mukt Bharat." Stating the BJP's commitment to changing the future of India, he said, "We need efforts to integrate the nation, not divide it." The events that have unfolded in the last few years, including the toppling of governments in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and the selective arrests of Opposition leaders, show that we are perhaps heading towards an Opposition-mukt Bharat.

Parliamentary democracy

The Indian Constitution adopted the parliamentary system and not the presidential system. B.R. Ambedkar provided the rationale for this: "A democratic executive must satisfy two conditions - (1) It must be a stable executive and (2) it must be a responsible executive. Unfortunately it has not been possible so far to devise a system which can ensure both in equal degree... In England, where the parliamentary system prevails, the assessment of responsibility of the executive is both daily and periodic. The daily assessment is done by members of Parliament, through questions, resolutions, no-confidence motions, adjournment motions and debates on addresses. Periodic assessment is done by the electorate at the time of the election... The daily assessment of responsibility which is not available under the American system it is felt far more effective than the periodic assessment and far more necessary in... India. The draft Constitution in recommending the parliamentary system... has preferred more responsibility to more stability."

Democracy is the basic feature of the Constitution. Parliamentary democracy does not envisage a condition where a one party-government becomes permanent. The presence of a vigilant Opposition is necessary not just for a vibrant democracy but for its very survival. When the Opposition criticises the government or carries on an agitation to arouse public opinion against a party's misdeeds, it is performing a duty that is assigned by the Constitution. Without an effective Opposition, democracy will become dull and legislature will become submissive. The public will then think that the legislature is a sham and is unable to perform its functions and will lose interest in the functioning of Parliament.

Before and after independence, the Congress was determined to keep other parties out. For a long time, the Opposition was considered unnecessary and somewhat burdensome. This had a deleterious effect on the functioning of our democracy. The very evils that Mr. Modi spoke about in Goa were the result. Yet, Mr. Modi and the BJP today seek to follow the same path. Recently, Home Minister Amit Shah publicly declared that the next 30-40 years will be the era of the BJP. Encouraging defections from the parties in power in States will sound the death knell for democracy. The Tenth Schedule has failed to serve its purpose. The Supreme Court, in *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu* (1992), while upholding the 52nd Amendment through which the Tenth Schedule was introduced, summed up the argument for and against it in these words: "On the one hand there is the real and imminent threat to the very fabric of Indian democracy posed by certain levels of political behaviour conspicuous by their utter and total disregard of well recognised political proprieties and morality... On the other hand, there are... certain side-effects which might affect and hurt even honest dissenters and conscientious objectors." In upholding the law, the court held: "But a political party functions on the strength of shared beliefs... Any freedom of its members to vote as they please independently of the political party's declared policies will not only embarrass its public image and popularity but also undermine public confidence in it which... is its source of sustenance – nay, indeed, its very survival."

Loyalty to the party is essential. The whip system is part of the established machinery of political organisation in the House and does not infringe on a member's rights or privilege in any way. That is why some political thinkers have recognised as an additional device the 'theory of recall,' so that a member whose personal behaviour falls below standards expected of his constituents goes back and seek their approval. This power is particularly apt when a member shows disloyalty to his party but declines to resign from his seat and to fight an immediate by-election. The anti-defection law was supposed to be the justification underlying the power of recall. In the absence of resignation and re-election immediately following the violation of the whip or showing disloyalty to the party on whose label the member was elected, the floor test in meaningless. It only seeks to legalise what is otherwise illegal, unconstitutional and immoral.

To see a flock of members of the governing legislative party in a State being flown from one destination to another in chartered planes, housed in five-star hotels, and taken to States run by the party in power at the Centre is a sign of a conspiracy. Given such circumstances, it is time for the Supreme Court to re-write that law, if necessary by exercising powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

Equally alarming is the recent trend of the use of draconian powers, especially the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, against Opposition members. Nobody can condone illegalities. Individuals, if guilty, must be proceeded with under the law. But can one believe that such illegalities are committed only in the Opposition? There has not been a single case against a member of the ruling party since 2014. Is dishonesty the forte of only the Opposition parties?

The way forward

The Prime Minister must seriously introspect on the erosion of public life and set things right. The judiciary must be aware of the ground realities and not allow such politically motivated investigations. Judges should readily grant anticipatory bail or regular bail in such matters. Political parties, the judiciary and civil society must take steps to ensure that democracy does not fail. The Opposition must be tolerated because if it is left for the party in power to decide what is healthy and unhealthy criticism, then every criticism of the latter will be treated as unhealthy.

During the Constituent Assembly debates, Naziruddin Ahmad had warned: "If you are not desirous of creating anti-Congress feeling... it is very necessary for you to create an opposition, if necessary by some members volunteering to go to the opposition and making it healthy and strong." Ramnarayan Singh went further and said, " A government which does not like opposition and always wants to be in power is not a patriotic but a traitor government."

At the same time, while the Opposition must be credible and strong, it is for the Opposition to make itself credible and strong. It must feel the pulse of the people. Unless it makes itself respectable, it cannot demand any respect. This is the biggest challenge facing the nation today.

The Opposition must also work constructively. Merely attacking the Prime Minister is not conducive for democracy. Our constitutional goal was to establish a sovereign, democratic republic. Mr. Modi and his party have a responsibility to ensure that India does not turn into an undemocratic republic.

Dushyant Dave is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and former President of the Supreme Court Bar Association

The 'saint' and the 'sinner'

While the RSS pracharak has to live by a harsh moral code, the BJP politician is untethered to any such morality

ANSHUL TRIVEDI

Recently, we witnessed a painfully familiar script play out in Maharashtra. The scenes of Opposition party legislators being herded out like cattle to a BJP-ruled State were broadcast yet again on TV. The only difference was that, this time around, such skullduggery was not met with shock, surprise or righteous disdain by the public. It was, as if, the people have come to expect it. The frequency with which such 'operations' have been executed in this regime is unprecedented. Horse-trading is no longer an exception; it has become routine.

Tacit consent for corruption

But more interestingly, this perversion of the political process through horse-trading and the blatant use of money power is not met with disapproval, but is celebrated by supporters of the Narendra Modi regime. Moreover, the endorsement of such cynical machinations is not restricted to toppling other governments; it also extends to welcoming into the ruling party those Opposition leaders who have been accused of financial corruption. This becomes all the more important when one considers that Mr. Modi's base is not docile but ideologically motivated and not averse to criticising the leadership. An example of this was the public criticism levelled against the ruling party for its decision to suspend BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma under pressure from the Arab states.

Apart from the regime's mass base, even the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological mentor of the BJP, has stayed silent on this issue. The RSS supremo, who is known to publicly intervene and give directions to the saffron brigade on sensitive matters, and whose utterances carry a lot of weight, has maintained a studied silence on these unending instances of horse-trading and destabilisation of Opposition-led governments. This silence can only be construed as complicity or a tacit consent for such moral and financial corruption among the Sangh Parivar and its supporters.

However, rather than dismiss this as routine hypocrisy, we must locate this consent within the political and ideological context of Hindutva. The legitimacy for such a political praxis primarily emanates out of the Hindutva view of politics and democracy. Unlike other formations, the RSS does not claim to be one among many organisations within the nation; rather it claims to speaks on behalf of the nation. This entails establishing hegemony within the social and political realms. For the Sangh Parivar, political power is merely the expression of social power and hence, it has always ascribed primacy to the social over the political. To hegemonise both these spheres, it has undertaken a strict division of labour wherein the RSS has confined itself to social service while the BJP has been handed the task of capturing political power.

However, this division of labour has given rise to an undeclared division of ethical burden. As per this division of ethical burden, the RSS plays the role of the custodian of virtue, while the BJP is the wielder of power. This is reflected in the contrast between the harsh moral code the RSS Pracharak has to live by while the BJP politician is untethered to any such morality. This division of ethical burden, between virtue and power, simultaneously elevates social service while denigrating politics.

Politics, thus conceptualised, becomes a profane and immoral realm, where might makes right and ends justify means. Any attempt to morally and ethically interrogate politics is not only futile but undesirable. It is this denigration of politics which explains why the BJP can forge opportunistic alliances with ideologically opposed forces like the Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party, indulge in horse-trading, co-opt Opposition politicians accused of corruption and still face no criticism from its supporters or its ideological mentor. The reprimand is reserved for instances when the politician attempts to reset political and ideological boundaries of the Hindutva discourse, as L.K. Advani found out to his dismay.

Consequences for Indian democracy

While this division of ethical burden is useful for pursuing the aims of the Hindutva project, it has grave consequences for democracy as the fundamental precondition for a functioning democracy is the fusion of power with ethicality. Democracy requires the elevation of the political realm. The denigration of this realm will lead to an erosion of the public's faith in the system and reduce democracy to crass electoralism, paving way for the entrenchment of electoral authoritarianism. In a diverse society, a functioning democracy is not an option but a necessity. Therefore, it is important for democratic forces to recognise the artificiality of this ethical division between the RSS and the BJP – the "saint" and the "sinner" – and challenge it holistically, as one depends on the other.

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STATE OF PLAY

A game of one-upmanship

Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar may be reducing the prospects of the Congress in the 2023 polls

NAGESH PRABHU

Grand plans for celebrating former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's 75th birthday on August 3 as 'Amrit Mahotsav' by his loyalists, at Davangere, seem to have further divided Congress workers on who the chief ministerial candidate should be for the 2023 Assembly elections.

Mr. Siddaramaiah's loyalists are organising a mammoth public meeting in what is seen as an attempt to project him as the party's chief ministerial candidate. The meeting is expected to mobilise voters belonging to the minority, OBC, and Dalit communities, which are seen as the primary beneficiaries of the 'Bhagya' welfare schemes implemented during Mr. Siddaramaiah's tenure in 2013-18. Interestingly, sensing victory in the 2013 Assembly polls, Congress leaders had celebrated Mr. Siddaramaiah's 65th birthday in a big way in Bengaluru in 2012.

In the backdrop of a few leaders quitting the party and many expressing displeasure on the functioning of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar, an aspirant for the top post, Mr. Siddaramaiah is expected to use the birthday platform to send a message to the party's rank and file and high command on his popularity. The event would send clear signals to Mr. Shivakumar that side-lining leaders or denying party tickets to those loyal to Mr. Siddaramaiah could prove costly. This intent has not gone down well with those loyal to Mr. Shivakumar.

Strongly defending the plans of his supporters, Mr. Siddaramaiah pointed out that former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa of the BJP too had celebrated his birthday on a grand scale and he himself had attended it. He asserted that the bash is a "political event" and is being organised to showcase the contributions of his government between 2013 and 2018.

While not openly criticising the event, Mr. Shivakumar has on more than one occasion stressed that "organisation is bigger than individual ambition." In line with what the party high command has said, his camp has asserted that the party would go to the polls under "collective leadership" and "anyone can become the Chief Minister." A few months ago, the All-India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, had issued a stern statement that the central Congress leadership and MLAs will choose the Chief Minister at an appropriate time and all Congress leaders will fight the polls in a united manner. In fact, Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Siddaramaiah were seen huddled together with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi (who is expected to attend the event) in much-publicised pictures, to send out a message that they had buried their differences. However, the developments round the birthday event belie this hope.

Mr. Shivakumar's brother and Bengaluru Rural MP D.K. Suresh has asserted that the event should not damage the party's prospects in the coming elections. In their latest move, Mr. Shivakumar's supporters sought to queer the pitch by arguing that there should also be a 'Shivakumar Utsava' to honour the services of the KPCC president. Wary of things going out of hand, Mr. Shivakumar said that he doesn't want any 'Utsava', but only wants to work for the party's victory.

As of now, both Mr. Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar are engaged in shadow boxing, while letting everyone know that they are natural claimants to the top post in the event of the Congress coming to power, and leaving no stone unturned to consolidate their position. Ironically, they may be diminishing the prospects of the party in the 2023 polls in this game of one-upmanship, thereby making the question of the chief ministerial candidate irrelevant.

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DATA POINT

Super Grandmaster at sweet 16

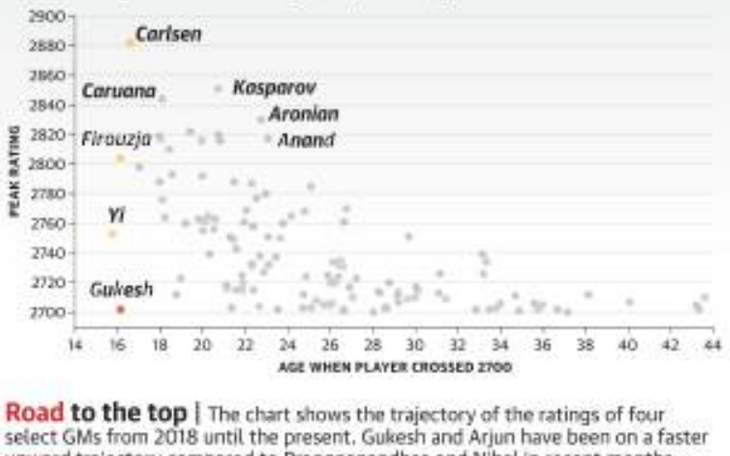
D. Gukesh has been on a winning spree, capturing four tournament titles this year and reaching No.32 in the world chess rankings based on live ELO ratings

D. Gukesh, the 16-year-old Grandmaster from Chennai, became only the sixth Indian to reach and cross the coveted 2700 ELO ratings mark in chess. Following his victory against GM Le Quang Liam from Vietnam, in the Biel Chess Festival (Classic) in Switzerland on July 16, to take his point tally to 2.5 in 3 games, the young GM's Live ELO ratings went up to 2703.9. Only two other players — China's Wei Yi (who is some months before turning 16) and Iranian-born French player Alireza Firouzja — achieved this earlier than the 16 years and nearly two months-old Gukesh. World champion Magnus Carlsen had attained a FIDE rating of 2700 when he was 16 and a half years old. Note that this is a live rating; FIDE updates its ratings list every month and Gukesh would have to avoid setbacks for his live rating to stay above 2700 in the games he will have to play in the next 15 days. By **Srinivasan Ramani, Rebecca Rose Varghese** and **Sonikka Loganathan**

Child prodigies The table shows the top 10 players who crossed the 2700 mark and the age at which they crossed the mark

Player	Age when they reached 2700
Wei Yi	15.8
Alireza Firouzja	16.1
D Gukesh	**16.1**
Magnus Carlsen	16.6
Anish Giri	17.0
Maxime Lagrave	18.0
Sergey Karjakin	18.0
Vladimir Kramnik	18.0
Fabiano Caruana	18.1
Richárd Rapport	18.1

Rising early | The scatter plot shows the age of the chess players when they reached the 2700 mark and their peak rating. The earlier they cross the mark, the higher their peak rating. Carlsen, for instance, reached the 2700 mark when he was 16.59 years and has the highest peak rating of 2882



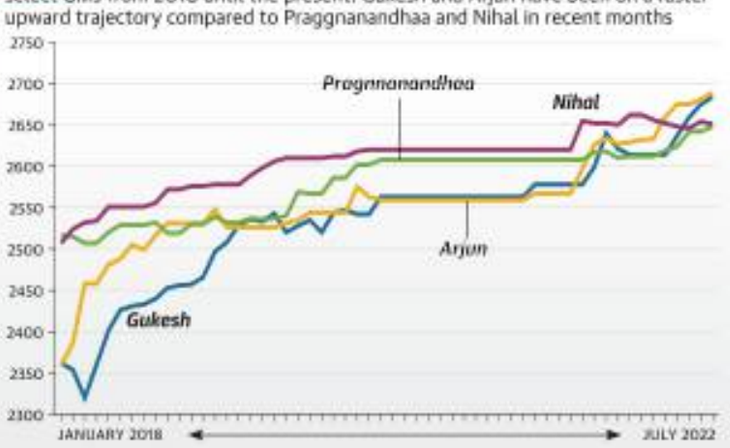
The elite among Indians

Only five other Indian GMs have crossed the 2700 ELO threshold apart from Gukesh

Player	Age when they reached 2700
V Anand	23.1
P Harikrishna	26.8
Vidit Gujrathi	22.9
K Sasikiran	26.0
B Adhiban	26.6
D Gukesh	**16.1**

Anand's current rating is 2756 (peak: 2817), Hari (2720, 2770), Vidit (2714, 2727), Sasi (2638, 2720), Adhiban (2598, 2701)

Road to the top | The chart shows the trajectory of the ratings of four select GMs from 2018 until the present. Gukesh and Arjun have been on a faster upward trajectory compared to Praggnanandhaa and Nihal in recent months



SOURCE: 2700CHESS.COM, FIDE.COM

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1972

Ministry downplays BBC report

New Delhi, July 17: The External Affairs Ministry to-day played down the BBC report – without recourse to a formal contradiction – that China had suggested a Summit meeting with India for normalising Sino-Indian relations. Apart from the fact that there was no firm evidence of any change in the Chinese attitude, the main reason for the guarded official reaction was that there was no one available in Delhi who could speak with some inside knowledge on the reported development. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, remained engrossed in the intricacies of the impending Cabinet reshuffle. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, was still away on his West African tour. The Chairman of the Policy Planning Committee, Mr. D.P. Dhar, who had just recovered from his illness, was not yet fully in the picture. And the two foreign policy advisers of the Prime Minister, her Principal Secretary, Mr. P.N. Haksar, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. T.N. Kaul, were also out of town. But the speculation on the reported Chinese bid for a dentate with India was evidently based on the meeting the Chinese envoy had with the Indian Ambassador in Warsaw last week, when he talked of the need for closer contacts between the two Governments. The foreign diplomats in the Polish capital got excited about this move, which later turned out to be just a routine courtesy with no dramatic significance. The Indian Ambassador, Mr. Natwar Singh, paid a visit to the previous Chinese Ambassador in Warsaw last year in the course of his courtesy calls on the other heads of missions after presenting his credentials in accordance with the standard diplomatic convention. But the Chinese envoy did not care to return the call in view of the pro-Pakistan stand that Peking had taken over the Bangladesh crisis at that time.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 18, 1922

Wireless in Hyderabad

Secunderabad, July 18: Major Benning who represents Marconi Company is here and demonstrated the wireless telephony in a remarkable manner on Saturday. Sir Afzur-ul-Mulk the opening paperchase of the season the course being seven miles from Secunderabad. The names of the first three to finish were phoned to the local newspaper which issued five minutes later. Major Bonning is arranging to demonstrate the utility of wireless by establishing stations in the districts in communication with the capital.

FROM PAGE ONE

Presidential poll today; Murmu has an edge

The total value of votes of all the States added together is divided by the total number of elected members of Parliament (Lok Sabha 543 + Rajya Sabha 233) to get the value of votes of each Member of Parliament," a background note of the Commission added.

The value of vote of each Member of Parliament is 700. Each MLA of Uttar Pradesh has the highest value of vote, which is 208 and Sikkim MLA has the lowest value of vote of 7.

'Palpable excitement'

On the eve of presidential polls, NDA constituents met to felicitate their candidate Ms. Murmu, who addressed the gathering and said there was palpable excitement among the tribal communities and women over her candidature. "With my nomination there is excitement among tribals and women," Ms. Murmu told the meeting, according to the sources. "There are around 10 crore tribals with more than 700 communities, and all are delighted with my nomination," she said, according to an NDA MP present at the meeting. Before Ms. Murmu's arrival, a mock drill for voting in the poll was carried out at Parliament. BJP leaders having parliamentary experience and members of the party's legal cell guided the MPs about the process to cast the votes.

In his appeal to the electorate, Mr. Sinha said his rival candidate is supported by those who are mounting attacks on democracy. "Please ask yourself. What kind of President does India deserve? One who will protect the Constitution or one who will protect the Prime Minister?" he asked in the appeal.

32 Bills listed for Monsoon Session

While Centre says it's ready to discuss all issues, Opposition says short session may not be enough

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Monsoon Session of Parliament, beginning on Monday, is all set to be stormy as the Opposition has decided to raise issues such as the controversial Agnipath scheme, inflation, alleged misuse of investigating agencies to target Opposition leaders and unemployment.

While the Centre said it was ready to discuss all important issues, the Opposition said the session was short and the House might not be able to take up the 32 Bills listed by the Centre. There will be 18 sittings during the session, including the private members' business on four Fridays. The session will end on August 12. The Presidential and Vice-Presidential elections will take place during the session.

The all-party meeting convened by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry here on Sunday saw exchanges between the government and the Opposition giving an indication on the issues that could reflect in the House in the coming days. The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Jairam Ramesh and Mallikarjun Kharge during the all-party meeting. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Senior Congressman and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge told presspersons after the meeting that the Centre wanted to table, discuss and pass 32 Bills during 14 days available for government business in the session.

"What is the government trying to do," he asked and added that the Opposition demanded discussions on 13 issues including price rise, Agnipath, attack on the federal structure of the country and misuse of investigative agencies.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said some of these 32 Bills have been cleared by department-related Standing Committees of Parliament. He said no Bill would be passed without discussion.

The 32 Bills include the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, the Press and Registration of Periodicals Bill, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, the Kalakshetra Foundation (Amendment) Bill, the Family Courts (Amendment) Bill, the Indian Antarctic Bill, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, the Trafficking of Persons (Protection, Care and Rehabilitation) Bill and the Cantonment Bill.

The Opposition questioned the absence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the meeting. "Isn't it [the absence] unparliamentary," asked senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

'Non-issues'

Mr. Joshi said the opposition is trying to make issues out of non-issues as they do not have anything against the government. Commenting on the charge that protests are banned in Parliament and several words have been added to the list of unparliamentary words, Mr. Joshi said the Opposition is trying to belittle the image of Parliament.

Leaders said another meeting of floor leaders of political parties in the Rajya Sabha, convened by Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu, saw emotional scenes. Mr. Ramesh said leaders expressed their regret at Mr. Naidu's departure and praised his contributions. "He will be a very tough act to follow," Mr. Ramesh said.

IN BRIEF

CRPF officer killed in Pulwama militant attack

SRINAGAR

A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer was killed in a militant attack in the Pulwama area of south Kashmir on Sunday. A police spokesperson said terrorists fired upon a checkpoint party at the Gangoo Crossing from a nearby apple orchard. "In this terror incident, one CRPF officer got seriously injured. He was shifted to a hospital for treatment where he died," the police said. The deceased was identified as assistant sub-inspector Vinod Kumar of the 182 Battalion.

President Kovind accepts Dhankhar's resignation

NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, a statement from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Sunday. Manipur Governor La. Ganesan has been assigned additional responsibility of West Bengal until regular arrangements are made for the post, the statement added. The West Bengal Governor's resignation comes a day after he was announced as the Vice-Presidential candidate of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

Hoist Tricolour at 20 cr. homes: Amit Shah to CMs

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday held a virtual meeting with the Chief Ministers of all States to discuss the hoisting of Tricolour at 20 crore homes in the run up to 75-years of Independence. A statement by the Home Ministry said the main objective of the programme is that the flag should be flown in all homes from August 13 to 15 through public participation. Mr. Shah said *Har Ghar Tiranga* (Tricolour at every door) should be promoted through advertisements by the State governments.

Opposition picks Margaret Alva for V-P election

The NDA candidate could get anywhere between 450 votes to over 520 votes, depending on whether a few Opposition parties such as the Biju Janata Dal, YSR Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) support Mr. Dhankar, just the way they did for NDA's presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu.

The Opposition, on the other hand, can expect a little over 250 votes, which is way below the halfway mark.

"Everyone knows the outcome but it was decided that the V-P's post should not go uncontested. Margaret Alva was a unanimous choice as she is not only a dignified woman leader, who represents the minority Christian community, but also an able administrator," an Opposition leader said.

"We are all together in this election," said Mr. Raut, whose party has supported Ms. Murmu in the presidential polls

Congress's communication chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "Margaret Alva, former Governor, former Union Minister, long time MP and very distinguished representative of India's wonderful diversity is the common Opposition candidate for Vice-President"

"Congratulations @alva_margaret! Having known you since your visits to the @UN thirty-plus years ago, I am delighted that such an able, worthy & qualified candidate will represent us in the race," added Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

All-party meeting on Sri Lanka tomorrow

T.N. CM has met the PM on the issue of aid to the nation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After a request from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), the Centre has decided to convene an all-party meet on the situation in Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, conveyed this decision at an all-party meeting here on Sunday. He sent an invitation to the floor leaders of all political parties in both Houses of Parliament and said Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar would brief them on the " situation in Sri Lanka".

M.K. Stalin

DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of humanitarian assistance to the economic crisis-hit island nation.

On Sunday, the two parties urged the Centre to intervene in the crisis to help the neighbouring country. DMK leader in the Lok Sabha T.R. Baalu said India should intervene to address the situation. Senior AIADMK leader and Rajya Sabha member M. Thambidurai demanded that India intervene to resolve the crisis.

Recently, Mr. Modi said in Chennai that India was providing all possible support to Sri Lanka, a close friend and neighbour. "This includes financial support, fuel, food, medicine and other essential items," he said.

India, China hold 16th round of talks on Ladakh

Aim to revive de-escalation process

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

India and China held the 16th round of Corps Commander-level talks on Sunday for over 12 hours as the two sides attempted to revive the stalled process of disengagement and de-escalation in Eastern Ladakh.

Talks began at 9.30 a.m. on the Indian side of the Chushul border personnel meeting point and ended around 10 p.m., an official source said on Sunday.

The Indian side is led by Lt.Gen. Anindya Sengupta, 14 Corps Commander.

While an agreement for disengagement from Patrolling Point-15 was close by in the previous few rounds of talks, China's refusal to discuss other friction areas, Demchok and Depsang, maintaining that they are not a part of the current stand-off, has stalled any progress. India has been insisting on comprehensive disengagement and de-escalation to end the ongoing stand-off in Eastern Ladakh.

Since the stand-off began in May 2020, the two sides have so far held 15 rounds of talks with disengagement undertaken from both sides of Pangong Tso in February 2021, and from PP 17 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area in August, in addition to Galwan in 2020 after the violent clash.

The 15th round of Corps Commander talks took place on March 11, 2022.

COVID-19 vaccine dose tally in India crosses the 200-crore mark

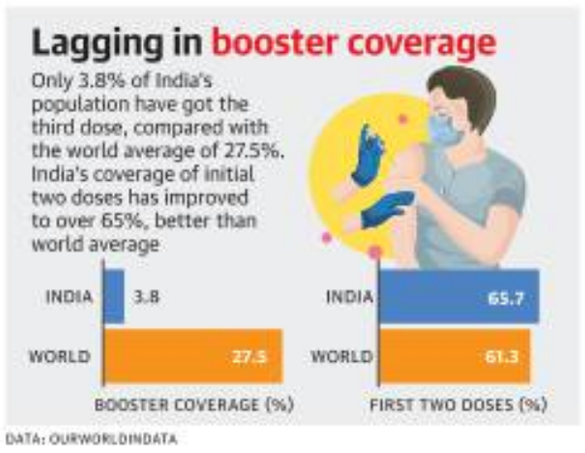
It took the country 18 months to reach the milestone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's cumulative COVID-19 vaccination drive crossed the milestone of 200-crore doses on Sunday.

Provisional reports said 200,00,15,631 doses had been administered across the country till 1 p.m. from the start of the drive on January 16, 2021. This was achieved through 2,63,26,111 sessions, the Health Ministry said in a release.

It took the country almost nine months to reach the 100-crore vaccination mark and another nine months to the 200-crore milestone. The highest single-day vaccination record of 2.5 crore doses was achieved on September 17, 2021.



DATA: OURWORLDINDATA

Calling India's vaccination drive "unparalleled in scale and speed", Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a tweet, congratulated citizens for the milestone.

The Ministry said several systematic interventions were carried out for capacity building to carry out this nationwide exercise. "Existing supply chain for storage and transport of COVID-19 vaccines was leveraged and effective monitoring of vaccine distribution and efficient utilisation of vaccines and syringes were ensured at all times," it said.

The vaccination exercise was being carried out in a citizen-friendly approach through initiatives such as "Har Ghar Dastak", workplace- and school-based vaccination, vaccination of persons without identity documents, and near-to-home and mobile vaccination centres, it said.

The Ministry said that with 71% of the centres in rural areas and over 51% of the doses administered to women, the programme ensured geographical and gender equity.

My sister identified only Yasin Malik: Mehbooba

'She was unable to identify others'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Sunday described her sister Rubaiya Sayeed's recent identification of Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik as her abductor in the 1989 kidnapping case as "doing her duty as per the law".

In public domain

"She [Ms. Sayeed] was called as a witness to identify someone in the case. Yasin Malik has been in the public domain for a long time, so it was easy for her to identify him. Thirty-two years is a long time and people tend to forget a lot of things. But it was easy to identify Malik," Ms. Mufti said.

Ms. Mufti's sister was abducted by members of the JKLF in December 1989 when she was returning home from medical collegewhere she was pursuing MBBS. Five militants were later released in exchange for the release of Ms. Sayeed. Her father Mufti Muhammad Sayeed was then a Union minister.

However, Ms. Mufti said her sister "was not able to identity anyone else".

The statement is in contrast to the government advocates who claimed Ms. Sayeed identified five abductors, including Malik, in the court hearing the case in Jammu on July 15 this year.

Despite SC alarm, bail is still not the norm

Release conditions remain stringent

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court judges have raised the alarm about indiscriminate arrests and the near-impossible chances of getting bail for undertrial prisoners in two separate fronts in a matter of a week.

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, speaking in Jaipur on July 16, urged the government to re-examine the criminal justice system.

On July 11, a Bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and M.M. Sundresh even suggested a new Bail Act itself to streamline and simplify the process.

However, words and judgments apart, bail is still tough to get, and once got, the conditions imposed on the accused, even by the Supreme Court, remain stringent, to say the least.

Zubair's case

On July 8, Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair got interim bail from the top court in a case registered against him in Sitapur of Uttar Pradesh for a tweet.

Though bail was granted, the Bench imposed strict conditions. One of them was that he should not post "any tweets". The other that he "shall not tamper with any evidence, electronic or otherwise in Bengaluru or anywhere else".

The conditions hardly matched the fact that the top court's bail would not leave Mr. Zubair a free man.

The Uttar Pradesh government had made it clear that, at the most, he would be transferred to Delhi for judicial custody in another case concerning his tweet. Since then, multiple cases have been registered against him in Uttar Pradesh itself.

The CJI's speech on July 16 may be an acknowledgement of the rising concerns about personal liberty and the burgeoning undertrial prisoner population in jails across the country.

"In our criminal justice system, the process is the punishment," Chief Justice Ramana said. The CJI pointed out that 80% of the 6.10 lakh prisoners are undertrials.

The July 11 judgment had also highlighted how jails were overflowing in India while conviction rates remain an abysmal low. The judgment underscored that a police state cannot exist within a democracy.

Baghel digs in his heels after Singh Deo's salvo

They refuse to reconcile despite order

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR
RAIPUR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel is learnt to have toughened his stance over senior leader T.S. Singh Deo's latest move of stepping down as the Panchayati Raj Minister. More than 24 hours after Mr. Singh Deo's resignation, the two had not spoken despite the high command advising them to reconcile through separate calls, said sources.

The resignation letter - in which the disgruntled Minister made several allegations against his own government - is seen as a fresh salvo in the ongoing leadership tussle between the two leaders.

Earlier, All India Congress Committee's (AICC) Chhattisgarh in-charge P.L. Punia, who is on a visit to Raipur since July 15, said he had spoken to AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal, Mr. Baghel and Mr. Singh Deo on the issue and necessary decision would be taken.

However, sources close to Mr. Singh Deo said while he was told by Mr. Punia that Mr. Baghel would call him to discuss the issue, it hadn't happened till Sunday evening. A source also contested Mr. Baghel's claim that he had tried to speak to his party colleague on Saturday night but the latter could not be contacted.

Prachanda, Nadda meet at BJP office

Nepal leader calls for working together for poverty alleviation in the region

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', chairman of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), called on BJP president J.P. Nadda at the party's headquarters in New Delhi in a first such invitation and visit by any member of the Communist Party of Nepal to the BJP's headquarters.

The BJP's foreign affairs cell chief, Vijay Chauthaiwale, who was present when the two leaders met, described the meeting as "cordial" and said "party-to-party interactions were to be given paramount importance." Mr. Dahal was reported as saying that while the two parties may be ideologically different, they needed to work together for poverty alleviation in the region.

Deepening ties: J.P. Nadda with Pushpa Kamal Dahal during their meeting at the BJP headquarters on Sunday. • PTI

'Neighbourhood first'

Sources said that in his opening remarks, Mr. Nadda said Nepal was at the centre of the Indian government's "neighbourhood first" policy and mentioned the recent visit by Prime Minister of Nepal Sher Bahadur Deuba to Delhi, as well as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lumbini as having further strengthened India-Nepal relationship.

"We stand ready to promote deeper linkages between the BJP and your party at multiple levels. We would be happy to welcome a delegation of the young leaders of the Maoist Centre to India," Mr. Nadda reportedly said.

Mr. Prachanda said ideological differences should not obscure common interests, and thanked India's support to Nepal during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Dahal's party is a partner in the ruling coalition in Nepal at present and Mr. Nadda's invitation to Mr. Dahal, belonging to a party inimical to the ideology of the BJP and Sangh Parivar, is being seen as an important warming up between the two parties and attempts to build bridges.

APPEAL

Mast Kishan is 5 years old suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. His family is extremely poor and cannot afford the huge expenditure of **Rs.16,00,000/-** to undergo Allogenic Bone Marrow Transplantation at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. He needs your blessings and support. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, D.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978927. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**
Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org

WWS

Margaret Alva, a veteran of political comebacks

UPA's nominee for V-P election is a fighter to the core

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Long career: Margaret Alva has served as the Governor of Uttarakhand, Goa, Gujarat and Rajasthan. • PTI

A five-term Member of Parliament, former Union Minister and former Governor, Margaret Alva has such accomplishments that made her a unanimous choice of the Opposition parties, which are contesting the Vice-Presidential election more to prove the point that they are ready for a fight despite the odds to win.

A veteran of political comebacks, Ms. Alva of the Congress is precisely known for her ability to stand up and speak her mind, even if it means displeasing one of her own. In 2008, she kicked up a storm when she publicly accused her party's Karnataka unit of "selling ticket" to the highest bidder after her son, Nivedith, was denied a seat to contest the Assembly election.

The outburst cost her politically as she was denied a ministerial position in the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government and her organisational responsibilities were taken away.

Once considered close to party chief Sonia Gandhi, Ms. Alva was the All India Congress Committee general secretary in charge of crucial States of Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana. But following the 2008 controversy, she was dropped as general secretary and also from the party's election committee. However, later she made a comeback and was made Governors of Uttarakhand, Goa, and Gujarat before she retired as the Governor of Rajasthan in 2014.

In her autobiography, *Courage and Commitment*, Ms. Alva had put the blame on senior leader A.K. Antony for her removal from organisational positions and held that it was because she had once recommended his [Mr. Antony] removal as the Chief Minister of Kerala.

Elected to the Rajya Sabha for the first time in 1974 at the age of 32, she finished four terms in the Upper House till 1998. She won her first Lok Sabha election from Karnataka and served as a member of the 13th Lok Sabha.

Ms. Alva was made Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1984 by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi when she was just 42.

Through her three decades in Parliament as MP and later Minister, she piloted major legislative amendments on women's rights, reservation for women in local bodies, equal remuneration, marriage laws and the Dowry Prohibition Amendment Act.

BJD to support NDA nominee Dhankhar

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) announced its support for the National Democratic Alliance's Vice-Presidential nominee Jagdeep Dhankhar after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday.

Mr. Modi sought the BJD's support for Mr. Dhankhar, to which Mr. Patnaik gave his consent, party sources here said.

Sonia removes Kamat as permanent invitee to CWC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader and former Goa Chief Minister Digambar Kamat has been removed as a permanent invitee to the Congress Working Committee (CWC), the party said on Sunday.

The move comes a day after the Congress moved five of its 11 MLAs to Chennai to keep its flock together before the Presidential election on July 18.

"Hon'ble Congress President has removed Shri Digambar Kamat from his current position as Permanent Invitee to Congress Working Committee with immediate effect," the party's general secretary (organisation), K.C. Venugopal, said in a statement.

The Congress had earlier accused Mr. Kamat and former Goa Leader of the Opposition Michael Lobo of trying to split its Legislative party in the State by engineering defections of MLAs to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party.

INTERVIEW | JOKO WIDODO

'Need to prioritise food and energy security'

Leaders of the Ukraine-Russia conflict must put their ego aside, says Indonesian President

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** *is recasting himself as a global peacemaker ahead of the G-20 summit in Bali in November where growing tensions between the West and Russia are expected to spill over. In his first interview since his visit to Russia and Ukraine, where he spoke to both leaders and forged an agreement on wheat exports, 'Bapak' Jokowi said it is time for leaders in the conflict to put their "egos" aside to save the world from disruptions in food and oil supply chains. Excerpts:*

You are the first Asian leader to travel to both Kyiv and Moscow. How successful do you think your peace mission was?

■ My motivation to visit Ukraine and Russia was only one – and that is humanity. We need to ensure that we don't let countries have their civilians starve and fall into extreme poverty because of the problems of the food crisis and the fertilizer crisis – innocent civilians should not become the casualties of war.

I wish to appeal to the conscience of the leaders to stop the war immediately. In my talks with President [Volodymyr] Zelensky and President [Vladimir] Putin, I stressed that the supply chains for food, fertilizer and energy should recover very soon.

There are serious concerns about the G-20 summit in November, given the walkouts by both sides at the IMF meeting and the Foreign Ministers' meeting in Bali. How worried are you?

■ If you look at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers in Bali, the result was productive – in the sense that at least all countries attended and could sit together in one room.

The walkouts that you speak of are, of course, one of the dynamics of the situation [since the Russia-Ukraine conflict].

The space for dialogue that we are providing at the G-20 must be utilised. Most importantly, we have to reduce the egoism of leaders for the betterment of the people of the world.

Will both President Putin and President Zelensky attend the G-20?

■ President Putin said he will attend, while for President Zelensky, due to the situation in Ukraine, there is still some uncertainty about his attendance.

Like Indonesia, India has taken a stand where it does not condone Russia's actions, but neither has it joined Western sanctions. Is there also a place at the G-20 for countries that are non-aligned in this conflict?

■ The first thing is that we must sit together regardless of whether you belong to one or other blocs, on either side of the spectrum, as well as those who want to sit on the fence. We need to reduce our egoism, promote humanity, give issues like food security and energy security, priority.

SUHASINI HAIDAR

The space for dialogue that we are providing at the G-20 must be utilised

Indian and Chinese Armies have been in a stand-off at the Line of Actual Control for more than two years. Do you hope to see Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping meet in Bali?

■ You have to look at the space for dialogue that is created, if there is a meeting between two major powers like India and China. Indonesia stands ready to mediate – we are always ready to help with anything that will ensure the betterment of people's lives.

You also met with Prime Minister Modi last month in Germany, and he wrote to wish you for Id. How much are you both coordinating ahead of the G-20?

■ We discussed a lot of issues on the economy and investment as well as broadly on Indonesia-India bilateral relations when we met. We also discussed Indian imports of cooking oil, and I told him that we lifted the restriction in May so the distribution of palm oil across the globe has now been restored.

Last month, your government protested with the Indian government over comments that were made about the Prophet and there were protests in Indonesia too. Did you discuss this?

■ In Indonesia, protests and demonstrations are an expression of our democracy and we never restrict them, we provide space for differences as long as it stays within the law. I wouldn't want to speak about [India].

Both countries are seeing religious radicalisation, majoritarian movements and violence. How can you manage the challenge of staying a republic amid this radicalisation and extremism?

■ I think there are no fundamental problems among different religions.

In my Cabinet, and in my government, we have a diverse group, we have members of the Catholic faith, Hindus, Muslims and so on. These are the relations I wish to project to the people to show by example that of course, there are problems, but we must be able to settle them by sitting together.

Four years after PM Modi and you exchanged visits, plans for India to join the Malacca Straits Patrol and to invest in the Western Sabang port have not moved forward...

■ We welcome India's [plan for] investment in Sabang port, which will give added value to the connectivity between Aceh and the Andaman Islands in India.

It is really important we are able to increase trade and tourism, and these projects can be realised quickly, fairly quickly, so Sabang can become one of the one of the biggest maritime ports as it was before.

Would you consider joining an expanded Quad with U.S., India, Australia and Japan, a group China has called an Asian NATO?

■ Cooperation on the Indo-Pacific must be increased between ASEAN and India. We have to ensure that initiatives don't lead to unhealthy competition among the countries. We have to manage this [U.S.-China] rivalry and ensure that it is not escalated to an open conflict.

Indonesia has a "free and active" foreign policy and its goal is to be friends with all countries. The U.S. is Indonesia's strategic partner, and China is also a major strategic partner.

(For full interview, visit https://bit.ly/THJokowi)

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2562099

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:

1. **Tender No.020/MYS/MAINT(U)/2022-23**–Operation and Maintenance of DG Sets and Auxiliary Equipment at BRBNMPL Mysuru.
2. **Tender No.021/MYS/CIVIL/2022-23**–Exterior Re-Painting of Township Buildings at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.

For downloading tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.

Sr. General Manager

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer-4, SWM Division, 2nd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: EE-4/SWM/TEND/06/2022-23 Date: 16.07.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System Notification)

The Executive Engineer-4, SWM, BBMP Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Govt. Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Tender Document KW-4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Approx. Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD
1.	Comprehensive developmental works in Kannuru Grama Panchayat Limits and surrounding villages in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 1)	875.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**7,75,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
2.	Comprehensive developmental works in Kannuru and Doddagubbi Grama Panchayat Limits in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 2)	970.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,70,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
3.	Comprehensive developmental works in Bidarahalli Grama Panchayat Limits and surrounding villages in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 3)	965.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,65,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
4.	Comprehensive developmental works in Bidarahalli and Kitaganuru Grama Panchayat Limits in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 4)	920.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,20,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
5.	Comprehensive developmental works in Kitaganuru and Manduru Grama Panchayat Limits in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 5)	960.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,60,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
6.	Comprehensive developmental works in Manduru and Avalahalli Grama Panchayat Limits in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 6)	995.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,95,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
7.	Comprehensive developmental works in Doddabanahalli and Kannamangala Grama Panchayat Limits in Mahadevapura Assembly Constituency (M.P 7)	915.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,15,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank
8.	Comprehensive developmental works in Byrati Bande, Byrati, Bilishivale, Varanasi, Sadaramangala and Channasandra village limits (M.P 8)	900.00	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e,Online/RTGS/NEFT/OTC and the balance Rs.**8,00,000**/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank

Calendar of Events : (1) Interested Eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and download the tender documents from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** upto **04.08.2022** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **27.07.2022** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Delegated Chief Engineer, Solid Waste Management, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 02. (3) Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal as per tender document on or before **04.08.2022** upto **4:00** pm and First folder containing the Techno-Commercial tender will be opened through e-portal only on **05.08.2022** after **4:30** pm. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer-4, Solid Waste Management

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram-27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912/885

E-TENDER NOTICE
e- tenders are invited for the supply of **pre-printed hologram hot stampe plastic cards.**
For details and online submission of bids visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last date of online submission of bids: **25.07.2022, 3.00 PM.**
Tender id: 2022_CDIT_499874_1

16.07.2022 Registrar, C-DIT

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
Adv.No.22/03/CE/TTD/2022-23&NIT No.41/SE-01/TTD/2022-23 **Offline - Tender Notice**

Name of the work: Setting up of Mini Dairy plant, 5000 LPD in S.V.Gosamrakshanashala Premises, TTD, Tirupati to process milk into milk products for 10 years under BOOT basis.

Request for proposals on BOOT basis for 10 years period

Schedule down load Start Date: 20-07-22 (5.00 p.m.); **Down load End Date:** 10-08-22 (up to 1.00 p.m.) and **Last Date for Bid submission:** 10-08-2022 (up to 3.00 p.m.)

Note: For full details log on to the website **https://www.tirumala.org**

Roc.No.PR4/13944/Adv.No.142/PRO/2022, Dated:17-07-2022 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No.: **SE/PHC/MPM/35 to 40/2022-23** JJM Inmbiliyam, Kodur GPs providing FHTCs with distribution system, Moorkanad, Kodur, Mamapad GPs construction ofWTPs, OHSRs, well, pipelines and electromechanical items and allied works. EMD: **₹2,00,000 to ₹5,00,000.**
Tender fee: **₹10,000 to 15,000** Last Date for submitting Tender: **09-08-2022 03:00:pm** Phone: **0483 2974871.**
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
KWA-JB-GL-6-544-2022-23 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Malappuram

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER, SUBARNAREKHA AND BUDHABALANGA BASIN, LAXMIPOSI.
Tel No. (Mobile No.9438477985) e-Mail : cebmsbb2019@gmail.com

Bid Identification No.- 06 /22-23 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Construction of Sono Barrage Project near village Puradihi in District Mayurbhanj, Odisha including hydro-mechanical works, Power connectivity works, road connectivity, staff quarters including survey, investigation, Planning, design and estimate of all components with operation and maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five flood seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the project on EPC Contract.

Name of Work	Class/EMD/Tender Fee/Period of Completion
Construction of Sono Barrage Project near village Puradihi in District Mayurbhanj, Odisha including hydro-mechanical works, Power connectivity works, road connectivity, staff quarters including survey, investigation, Planning, design and estimate of all components with operation and maintenance of the project for a period of five years or five flood seasons whichever is more after successful commissioning of the project.	(1) Class - Super class or equivalent Bidders. (2) EMD - Only the Bid Security Declaration to be furnished instead of EMD / Bid Security. (3) Tender Fee - **Rs.10000/-** to be transferred online (Non Refundable) (4) Period of Completion - 30 calendar months including rainy season

A.	PERIOD OF AVAILABILITY OF BIDDING DOCUMENT	**Dt. 18.07.2022 from 10.00 AM to Dt.02.09.2022 up to 5.00 PM**
B.	TIME AND DATE FOR PRE-BID CONFERENCE	**Dt. 04.08.2022 at 11.00 AM in office of the CE & BM, S & B Basin, Laxmiposi in physical/ virtual mode through Google Meet. The interested bidder should ask to link giving their e-mail Id to cebmsbb2019@gmail.com**
C.	LAST DATE AND TIME FOR RECEIPT OF BIDS	**Dt. 02.09.2022 up to 5.00 PM**
D.	PLACE OF SALE, RECEIPT OF BIDS	**Online through e-procurement.**
E.	TIME AND DATE OF OPENING OF TECHNICAL BID	**Dt. 05.09.2022 at 11.00 AM**
F.	PLACE OF OPENING OF BIDS	**Office chamber of the CE & BM, S & B Basin, Laxmiposi.**
G.	**Further details can be seen from e-procurement portal " https://tendersodisha.gov.in"**	

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi,

A-397 OIPR-32429/11/0009/2223

Public Notice

This is to notify the general public that Hyundai Global Motors Co. Limited, South Korea is not an Affiliate/Subsidiary/Group company of **Hyundai Motor Company, South Korea** and/or **Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL),** India and has no association whatsoever with Hyundai Motor Company and HMIL, India.

Hyundai Global Motors Co. Limited is not authorised to use Hyundai trademark & logo of Hyundai Motor Company and HMIL, India in any manner especially before any authority in any capacity in India. Based on the above fact, the corporate name of Hyundai Global Motors Co. Limited was forced to change to Global Motors Co. Limited by the court of South Korea.

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Hyundai Motor Company and HMIL are the registered trademark owners and any use of Hyundai name & Logo and its associated trademarks and any use or any misrepresentation of the same by any third-party including Hyundai Global Motors Co. Limited, South Korea amounts to violation of the intellectual property rights of our company entailing legal recourse. Hyundai Motor Company and HMIL cannot be held liable or responsible for any business transaction/ agreements that are undertaken by Hyundai Global Motors Co. Limited, and our company hereby cautions the public and others to deal diligently with such companies.

Date: 15/07/2022

Hyundai Motor India Limited.
Central Regional Office: Unit No.602-605, 6th Floor, 'Elegance Tower', Jasola, New Delhi-110 025

HYUNDAI

Four share top rank in ICSE Class 10

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Four students have shared the top rank with a score of 99.8% in the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) Class 10 board examination, the results of which were declared on Sunday.

The second rank has been shared by 34 students with a score of 99.6%, while 72 are on the third spot with 99.4% marks.

The four toppers are – Hargun Kaur Matharu (Pune), Anika Gupta (Kanpur), Pushkar Tripathi (Balrampur) and Kanishka Mittal (Lucknow).

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) has announced a merit list after two years, as examinations could not be conducted earlier due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pass percentage for girls (99.98%) is marginally higher than that for boys (99.97%), officials said, adding that the overall pass percentage was 99.97%. The CISCE had announced that marks of both first and second semester exams were given equal weightage in the final score.

Only 50% of farmers benefited from loan waivers, says study

'Implementation poor in Telangana, M.P., Jharkhand, Punjab, Karnataka and U.P.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

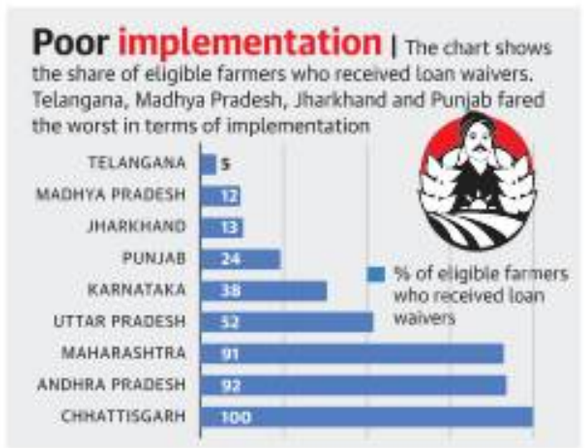
Only about half of the intended beneficiaries of farm loan waivers announced by nine States since 2014 have actually received debt write-offs, shows a study by State Bank of India researchers.

As of March 2022, the poorest implementation of farm loan waiver schemes in terms of proportion of eligible farmers who had received the announced benefits was in Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), Punjab (24%), Karnataka (38%) and Uttar Pradesh (52%).

By contrast, farm loan waivers implemented by Chhattisgarh in 2018 and Maharashtra in 2020 were received by 100% and 91% of the eligible farmers, respectively. A similar waiver announced by Maharashtra in 2017 worth ₹34,000 crore for 67 lakh farmers has been implemented for 68% of beneficiaries, SBI researchers reckoned.

The SBI study was based on the outcomes of 10 farm loan write-offs worth about ₹2.53 lakh crore announced by nine States, starting with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in 2014. As many as 92% of Andhra Pradesh's 42 lakh farmers eligible for loan waivers had benefited, while the number was a mere 5% for Telangana.

"Since 2014, out of approximately 3.7 crore eligible farmers, only around 50% of the farmers received the amount of loan waiver till March 2022... Despite much hype and political patronage, farm loan waivers by States have failed to bring respite to intended subjects, sabotaging credit discipline in select geographies and making banks and financial institutions wary of further lending," the SBI report noted, terming it a "self goal" inflicted by the State on its subjects.



Possible reasons

The report identified rejection of farmers' claims by State governments, limited or low fiscal space to meet promises, and change in governments in subsequent years, as the possible reasons for the low implementation rate of these loan waivers.

Apart from benefits not reaching the targeted farmers, the report flagged concerns about whether they actually help farmers in genuine distress. "Of the total accounts eligible for farm loan waiver, most of the accounts (more than 80% in some States) were in standard category, begging a question whose interest rampant waivers actually serve," it noted.

The proportion of standard accounts, which refers to loans being serviced in a timely manner by borrowers, that were covered by the farm loan waiver, was particularly high in Jharkhand (100%), U.P. (96%), Andhra Pradesh (95%), Punjab (86%) and Telangana (84%).

"Loan waivers destroy the credit culture which may harm the farmers' interest in the medium to long term and also squeeze the fiscal space of governments to increase productive investment in agriculture infrastructure," the report said.

Packed curd, *paneer*, *atta* to attract 5% GST from today

Tax on hospital room tariff, solar water heaters will go up

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Customers will have to pay a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pre-packed, labelled food items such as *atta*, *paneer* and curd, besides hospital rooms with rents above ₹5,000, starting from Monday.

Hotel rooms with tariffs of up to ₹1,000 a day, maps and charts, including atlases, will attract a 12% GST, while cartons and fees charged by banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form) will attract 18%.

Last month, the GST Council, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and including State Finance Ministers, pruned the exemption list and imposed the tax on many goods and services.

Pre-packed food items will attract a 5% GST.

Duty inversion removed

The Council, based on an interim report of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation, removed duty inversion for goods where the taxes on inputs were higher than those on the output.

Tax rates on products such as printing, writing or drawing ink; knives with cutting blades, pencil sharpeners; LED lamps; and drawing instruments will be hiked to 18% on Monday, from 12% currently, to correct the inverted duty anomaly. Solar water heaters will now attract a 12% GST from the 5% earlier.

The tax on services such as work contracts for roads, bridges, railways, metro facilities, effluent treatment plants and crematoriums will go up to 18% from the current 12%.

Reduction & exemptions

Taxes will be cut on ostomy appliances and on transport of goods and passengers by ropeways to 5% from 12%.

Renting of trucks and goods carriages where the cost of fuel is included will now attract a lower 12% rate as against 18%.

The exemption on the transport of passengers by air to and from the north-eastern States and Bagdogra will be restricted to economy class only.

Services rendered by regulators such as the RBI, the IRDA and the SEBI will be taxed at 18% and so will be renting of a residential dwelling to business entities.

Biomedical waste treatment facilities shall attract a 12% GST, while non-ICU hospital room rents exceeding ₹5,000 a day will be levied a 5% GST, without input tax credit, to the extent of the amount charged for the room.

Besides, individuals will be able to claim GST exemption for training or coaching in recreational activities relating to arts, culture or sports.

Electric vehicles, whether fitted with a battery pack or not, will be eligible for the concessional GST rate of 5% from July 18.

INTERVIEW | ALOK KUMAR

'Hindus will win Kashi, Mathura suits'

We don't look for *shivling* in all mosques but only where it existed: VHP leader

ISHITA MISHRA

The Kashi and the Mathura Krishna Janmabhoomi issues will continue to be on the agenda of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and it will strive to get them back, says its international working president **Alok Kumar**

You have said Hindus will get to worship in Kashi and Mathura in their lifetime. What makes you so convinced for the same?

■ I am a student of law and have been practising since 1981. I have studied both the law suits in detail. It is my understanding that the Hindus have a very good case, particularly, after the discovery of a *shivling* in Varanasi. It was based upon that understanding of law, I am confident that the Hindus will win both the law suits.

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat recently said people must not look for *shivling* under every mosque and that there will be no movement for Kashi and Mathura. What is the VHP's stand on this?

■ As far as Mr. Bhagwat's statement is concerned, he spoke for the RSS and not for the VHP. He said the RSS, as an organisation, doesn't ordinarily participate in agitations and movements. Ram Janmabhoomi was an exception. But, as far as the VHP is concerned, we believe that Kashi and Mathura continue to be an agenda of the Hindus, including the VHP, and we will strive to get them back. Our actions will be peaceful and under the Constitution. Also, we all should wait for the judgment of the court. As far as Mr. Bhagwat's statement is concerned, we are not looking for *shivling* in every mosque. We are looking for it where it existed. It is those mosques which were constructed after demolishing a temple.

Our actions will be peaceful and under the Constitution

You said there was nothing wrong in what [suspended BJP spokesperson] Nupur Sharma has said. But both the RSS and the BJP have distanced themselves from her. Why?

■ No, I didn't say that. I said if some people had a grievance against her statement they have a legal system to follow. FIRs have been filed against her, police are investigating the matter and a magistrate will hold a trial and decide if she is guilty or not. But hundreds of Muslims took to the streets, rampaging, stoning and even burning. At many places, they were accompanied by speeches that declared punishments for her. Under our legal system, no crowd would decide her punishment; the court would decide. And in this context, we insist that India will not accept the efforts to impose Sharia law. Blasphemy is a Sharia law. Also, I have studied the statement made by Nupur and I feel that she has strong defence.

You are not very happy with the comments of judges in Nupur Sharma's case?

■ Saying that I wasn't very happy with what the judges have said is an understatement. I am unhappy and disappointed. Disappointed, not for their comments but because they didn't follow the law laid down by the Supreme Court which says only one FIR can be registered in one case. Two persons have been killed just for supporting her and hundreds have been threatened. There is an obvious danger to her life and it will be aggravated if she will travel to Bengal and Assam for hearings. My disappointment was that the judges didn't ask all cases to be clubbed and to be heard in Delhi.

Also, the Supreme Court wasn't hearing the case that whether she is guilty or not. This would be decided by a magistrate after the trial. So making statements, holding her responsible for violence and killings is like trying to decide the case. Such comments should have been avoided.

There is something like respect is being commanded and not demanded. So therefore there are '*lakshman rekhas*' for every institution, including for the judges, which probably they have crossed in this case.

And the Supreme Court has said in various judgments that what a judge speaks or asks during a hearing shouldn't constitute as an order of the court. An order of the court is what he writes. And I noticed that all these comments were not part of their order. So why did they make them?

IndiGo plane diverted to Karachi

Flight from Sharjah faces engine fault

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/ KARACHI

IndiGo's Sharjah-Hyderabad flight was diverted to Karachi as a precaution on Sunday, after pilots observed a defect in one of the engines, officials of aviation regulator DGCA said.

On July 14, IndiGo's Delhi-Vadodara flight was diverted to Jaipur out of precaution, as vibrations were observed in the engines of the aircraft for a second.

The DGCA is probing the incident. • PTI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is investigating both the incidents, officials noted.

In a statement on Sunday's incident, IndiGo said its flight 6E-1406, operating from Sharjah to Hyderabad, was diverted to Karachi as a precaution after the pilot observed "a technical defect". "Another flight is being sent to Karachi to fly the passengers to Hyderabad," the airline added.

An official of the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) said the engineering crew found faults in engine number two of the plane.

IndiGo's competitor SpiceJet is under regulatory scanner. On July 6, the DGCA issued a show-cause notice to SpiceJet following eight incidents of technical malfunction in its aircraft since June 19.

Bird found in cockpit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

A live bird was found in the cockpit of the Bahrain-Kochi flight of Air India Express on July 15 when the plane was at an altitude of 37,000 feet, officials of the DGCA said on Sunday. The bird was in the glove compartment. The plane landed safely, they said. Prima facie, it looks like a ground handling lapse at a foreign station, they said.

Close to 18 lakh students take NEET

Medical entrance exam, which was held at 3,570 centres, saw 95% attendance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

About 95% attendance was recorded in the medical entrance examination National-eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) on Sunday, according to National Testing Agency (NTA) officials.

Breaching the 18-lakh mark, a total of 18,72,329 candidates had registered for the largest entrance examination in the county of which 10.64 lakh were girls, the officials said.

This was the first time that the number of registrations for the NEET surpassed 18 lakh, a considerable increase of over 2.5 lakh from the 2021 figure.

The exam was conducted at 3,570 centres in 497 cities, including 14 cities outside India.

Last year, the NEET-undergraduate examination was held on September 12, with over 95 per cent of the registered candidates appearing for it.

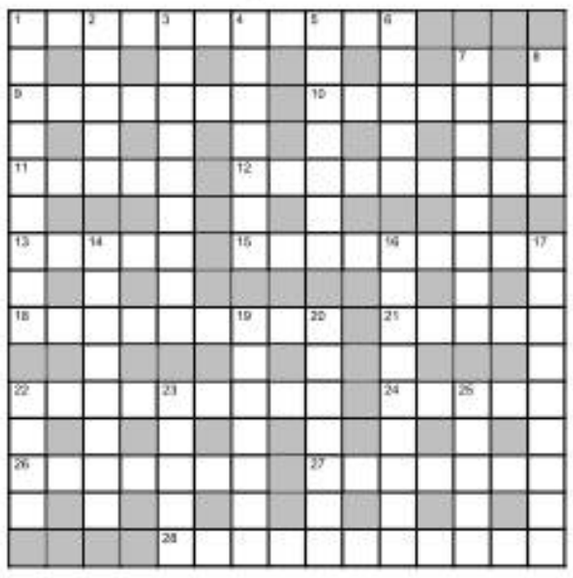
Over 15.44 lakh candidates appeared for the exam, which was conducted at 3,858 centres. Of these, at least 8.7 lakh students qualified.

Students waiting outside a NEET centre in New Delhi on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

TH CROSSWORD + 13611

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*



Across

1 Severe shortage primarily, commotion about inorganic compound... (7,4)
9 ...misuse by six with three more people at lab in the beginning... (7)
10 ...intervene without delay, I'm not involved (7)
11 Well, a man is smuggling an animal (5)
12 Use no bill, Harry is involved... (9)
13 ...safeguard right away and proceed (5)
15 Trouble in procuring one Indian copyright relating to the prophet (9)
18 Fat teens with youth leader partying without a form of security (6,3)
21 Part of door lopsided in lowest deck (5)
22 In school tour running around LA, found rubber, say (9)
24 Stand's edge's large (5)
26 Earache for gladiator, rod to be removed and operated (7)
27 Element – one free at institute for all to see by beginning of the month (7)
28 A device mother broke, termed mostly faulty (11)

Down

1 Trivial opposers to guests accommodating six (9)
2 University student distributed art that is radical (5)
3 Say, phosphorous is found in ventilators, so to be removed and repaired... (9)
4 ...CA still outside agitated ICU (7)
5 Mass is so-so, to be treated with diffusion, perhaps (7)
6 Execute in entirety to produce an organic solvent (5)
7 At lab, crony creates a compound of divalent group... (8)
8 ...at this place she's excellent (4)
14 Heard Kajol uses mild suds (4-4)
16 A few risk replacing potassium with a bit of mica for a chemical phenomenon (9)
17 A compound made with two or more compounds – recreating copy, more lighter to begin with (9)
19 Return money – cost of salt (7)
20 Metallic element on carved timber, posh (7)
22 Strong individual dismissed by mid-month (4)
23 Weak force replaces male leader with lady (5)
25 Fast bird (5)

SUDOKU

			5			6		
			1	7			8	
8	1		2			9		
			4					2
7	9			2			4	5
4					3			
		5			1		3	4
	7			4	2			
		1			5			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13610

S	G	S	S	S	H	M	P	
C	R	U	M	P	E	T	P	A
E	N	I	R	E	S	N	O	
N	O	M	I	N	E	E	C	I
I	A	S	T	R	O	R		
C	O	N	F	E	S	S	O	R
		N	E	O	I	O		
T	R	E	A	D	L	E	S	Y
R	X	E	U	I				
A	L	P	H	A	R	A	I	N
D	E	R	O	M	E	O		
E	N	D	E	M	I	C	P	A
G	I	E	R	U	O	E	A	
A	N	T	E	N	N	A	G	R
P	E	T	T	N	K	A	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	4	7	5	8	2	1	3
7	8	2	3	1	9	4	6	5
3	5	1	6	2	4	8	9	7
5	3	9	4	8	1	7	2	6
6	4	8	2	7	3	9	5	1
1	2	7	9	6	5	3	8	4
4	9	6	1	3	2	5	7	8
8	1	3	5	9	7	6	4	2
2	7	5	8	4	6	1	3	9

FAITH

Healthy mind and body

Sushrutha, the legendary surgeon and practitioner of Ayurveda, said he had been told by the Supreme One that Dhanvantari would divide Ayurveda into eight parts. Velukkudi Krishnan elaborated on these divisions in a discourse. The eight divisions are Shalya, Saalakya, Kaaya chikitsa, Bhuta Vaidhya, Kaumara, Agada Tantra, Rasayana and Vaajeekarana. These divisions can be matched to specialisations that we find in modern medicine. Thus Shalya is surgery. Shaalaakya deals with diseases affecting the face and neck. Kaaya Chikitsa talks of examining patients and diagnosing their ailments. Bhuta Vaidya deals with problems of the mind. In other words, it is about psychological problems. Kaumara is nothing but paediatric medicine. Agada Tantra studies toxins in the body, infections like fevers, snake bites and so on. Rasayana is concerned with studying herbs to make medicines with them and to study about prolonging life. Vaajeekarana deals with fertility and reproduction. Ayurveda addressed two concerns – how to treat those afflicted with diseases and how to prevent people from falling prey to diseases. In Ayurveda food itself is seen as medicine. If we take the right sort of food and eat normal proportions, instead of overeating, then we can be healthy.

We get a human body, on the basis of our karma. And we cannot know what past karma of ours has determined our birth. After we are born, we come into contact with many objects and with many people. Suffering or pleasure can result from these connections and contacts. We are born with the qualities – sattva, rajas and tamas. But we can change our qualities. Vibhishana was born an asura, but developed sattvik qualities. Ancient texts dealt with relief for bodily ills and also with release from the samsaric cycle.

Forest fires rage in southwest Europe

Blazes in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain force residents to flee, kill thousands; temperatures soar

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Firefighters struggled to contain wildfires sweeping across southwest Europe on Sunday as a heatwave showed no sign of abating, with Britain poised to set new temperature records this coming week.

Blazes raging in France, Greece, Portugal and Spain have destroyed thousands of hectares of land, forced thousands of residents and holidaymakers to flee and killed several emergency personnel since last week.

Checking blaze: Wildfires continue to spread in the Gironde region of southwestern France, forcing 14,000 people to evacuate to temporary shelters. • SDIS 33/REUTERS

Second heatwave

It is the second heatwave engulfing parts of southwest Europe in weeks. Scientists blame climate change and predict more frequent and intense episodes of extreme weather such as heatwaves and drought.

A study published in June in the journal *Environmental Research: Climate* concluded it was highly probable that climate change was making heatwaves worse.

Firefighters in France's southwestern Gironde region were fighting to control two forest blazes that have devoured nearly 11,000 hectares since Tuesday.

The wildfires have forced more than 14,000 people – residents and tourists combined – to decamp. Seven emergency shelters have been set up.

Meteo France forecast temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius in parts of southern France on Sunday, with new heat records expected on Monday.

"The heat is intensifying. The heatwave is spreading across the country," the weather office said.

France placed 37 departments on orange high alert on Sunday.

Authorities in the French Alps urged climbers bound for Mont Blanc, Europe's highest mountain, to postpone their trip due to repeated rock falls caused by "exceptional climatic conditions" and "drought".

The call comes after a section of Italy's biggest Alpine glacier gave way in early July, killing 11 people.

Spanish officials reported around 20 wildfires in the country from the south to Galicia in the far northwest, where blazes have destroyed around 4,500 hectares of land. Another fire burning in the Mijas mountain range has destroyed about 2,000 hectares of land.

In Portugal, almost the entire country remained on high alert for wildfires despite a slight drop in temperatures, after hitting 47 degrees Celsius – a record for the month of July – on Thursday. Only one major fire was burning on Sunday in the north.

At least 1,000 deaths have been attributed to the heatwave in Portugal and Spain so far.

'Red' alert in U.K.

In Greece, the civil defence service had brought under control a wildfire raging on the Mediterranean island of Crete since Friday.

In the U.K., the weather office issued a first-ever "red" warning for extreme heat, cautioning there was a "risk to life".

The Met Office said temperatures in southern England could exceed 40C on Monday or Tuesday for the first time, leading some schools to say they would stay closed next week.

(With Reuters inputs)

A local resident standing next to a damaged building after shelling in Chuguiv, east of Kharkiv, on Saturday. • AFP

Russia presses attacks in Ukraine's east, south

More missile strikes on Mykolaiv city

ASSOCIATED PRESS
VINNYTSIA

Russian missiles hit industrial facilities at a strategic city in southern Ukraine on Sunday as a funeral was held for a four-year-old girl killed in an earlier deadly strike elsewhere in the country.

Liza, who had Down syndrome, was en route to see a speech therapist with her mother when a Russian missile struck the city of Vinnytsia in central Ukraine on Thursday. At least 24 people were killed, including Liza and two boys aged 7 and 8. More than 200 others were wounded, including Liza's mother.

"I didn't know Liza, but no person can go through this with calm," priest Vitalii Holoskevych said. 'We know that evil cannot win,' he said, his voice trembling.

On Sunday, more Russian missiles struck industrial facilities in the strategic southern city of Mykolaiv, a key shipbuilding centre in the estuary of the Southern Bug river.

Blocking Black Sea coast

The Russian military has declared a goal to cut off Ukraine's entire Black Sea coast all the way to the Romanian border.

If successful, such an effort would deal a crushing blow to the Ukrainian economy and trade and allow Moscow to secure a land bridge to Moldova's separatist region of Transnistria, which hosts a Russian military base.

The Russians also sought to reinforce their positions in the Kherson region near Crimea and part of the northern Zaporizhzhia region that they seized in the early stage of the conflict, fearing a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

The British Defence Ministry said on Sunday, that Russia is moving manpower and equipment between Kherson, Mariupol and Zaporizhzhia. It added: "Given the pressures on Russian manpower, the reinforcement of the south whilst the fight for the Donbas continues indicates the seriousness with which Russian commanders view the threat." For now, the Russian military has focused its efforts on trying to take control of Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where the most capable and well-equipped Ukrainian forces are located.

Ukraine says its forces still retain control of two villages in the Luhansk region.

48% Tories say Sunak will be a good PM: poll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Almost half of the voters for the U.K.'s governing Conservative Party believe Rishi Sunak will make a good Prime Minister, according to a new opinion poll on Sunday.

The Sunday Telegraph reported that the JL Partners' poll of more than 4,400 people found that 48% of those who backed the Tories in the 2019 general election felt the British Indian former Chancellor would be a good Prime Minister.

This is also the first poll that puts Foreign Secretary Liz Truss in second place, with 39% backing her for Prime Minister and 33% in favour of Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt.

The survey comes as the race to elect Prime Minsiter Boris Johnson's successor as the next Conservative Party leader is narrowing down to these three main contenders.

"Sunak invites strong opinions. One-third of voters think he would be good in the top job, one third do not. But in an unpopular field where every other candidate is in net-negative territory, this score draw makes him the public's favourite. He is particularly popular with the all-important 2019 Conservative voter, as the only candidate to have half approve of him," he said.

Among all voters, the most popular policy priority was to "turn the economy around", addressing the National Health Service (NHS) backlog and restoring trust and integrity in public life coming second and third, respectively. Cutting taxes, which has emerged as a central focus of all the debates so far, was the fourth priority.

Sri Lankan protesters vow to continue struggle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan protesters have vowed to continue their struggle for a complete change of the system by abolishing the presidency, as the popular uprising that ousted Gotabaya Rajapaksa as President marked the 100th day on Sunday.

The anti-government protest began on April 9 near the presidential office and has been continuing without a break.

"We will continue our fight till we achieve our goal for a complete change of the system," Father Jeewantha Peiris, a leading activist of the movement, said.

'Freedom struggle'

"This is a freedom struggle. We managed to send home an authoritarian President through people's power," Fr. Peiris said.

Mr. Gotabaya, 73, who fled to the Maldives on Wednesday and then landed in Singapore on Thursday, formally resigned on Friday, capping off a chaotic 72 hours in the crisis-hit nation that saw protesters storm many iconic buildings, including the President and the Prime Minister's residences here.

Acting President Wickremesinghe appears to be the next target for the protesters, and the campaign to oust him has already begun.

"On July 5, we issued an action plan. Foremost of that was removing Gotabaya and defeating Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Rajapaksa regime," he said.

"We press for the abolition of the presidency to make it a true realisation of our action plan," he said.

"We do not fear the government," the protesters chanted in chorus.

After occupying the three most important administrative buildings in the capital, the protesters vacated three of them other than the presidential office.

Mr. Wickremesinghe, who is also the prime minister, on Friday pledged to maintain law and order after he was sworn in as Sri Lanka's interim president.

He said that the armed forces have been given the powers and the freedom to deal with any acts of violence and sabotage.

"I am one hundred per cent supportive of peaceful demonstrations. There is a difference between rioters and protesters," he had said.

Mr. Wickremesinghe said the true protesters would not resort to unleashing violence.

Temple, homes attacked in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA

A temple, shops and several houses of the Hindu community have been vandalised in southwestern Bangladesh by some unidentified persons over a Facebook post allegedly belittling Islam, in the latest spate of violence targeting the religious minority in the country, according to media reports on Sunday.

Police fired warning shots to disperse a mob that vandalised several homes and torched one of them in Sahapara village in Narail district on Friday evening, *bdnews24.com*, an online newspaper quoted Haran Chandra Paul, an inspector at the local police station, as saying.

Imran urges Pak. Generals to stop supporting Sharif govt.

Current set-up would destabilise Pakistan, says former PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistani military should take a U-turn on its support to the "failed" government headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, ousted premier Imran Khan has said, urging the powerful Generals to review their decision as any wrong move by them would further widen the gulf between the people and the establishment.

Addressing a seminar organised by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) here on Saturday, Mr. Khan, Chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, said that the whole nation was looking toward the establishment as they have power.

Imran Khan

Mr. Khan said it was important for leaders and Generals to take 'U-turns' as no one should consider himself infallible.

The longer the current setup runs, the more damaging it would be for the country, said Mr. Khan, who has been complaining about the powerful military abandoning him during the political crisis earlier this year.

He questioned whether the decision taken by the military establishment behind "closed doors" to support the incumbent regime was beneficial to Pakistan.

"Who told them that the decision (to back PML-N led by Sharif) was a better option?" Mr. Khan asked.

"The nation is looking towards the establishment because they have the power," Mr. Khan said, adding that the current set-up would destabilise Pakistan politically and economically.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL (BENGALURU BENCH)
IN THE MATTER OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SECTIONS 230 TO 232 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013
AND
IN THE MATTER OF SCHEME OF ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN
GOOGLE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
AND
GOOGLE IT SERVICES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED AND THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS AND CREDITORS
CP (CAA) NO. 26/BB/2022

1.Google India Private Limited
Having its registered office at
No 3, 4th and 5th Floor, RMZ Infinity
Tower E, Old Madras Road
Bengaluru - 560 016

2.Google IT Services India Private Limited
Having its registered office at
11th and 12th Floor
Carina-West Tower
Bagmane Constellation
Business Park
Bengaluru, 560 048
...PETITIONER COMPANIES

NOTICE OF HEARING OF PETITION

A Company Petition under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 for sanctioning the Scheme of Arrangement between Google India Private Limited and Google IT Services India Private Limited (collectively, "Petitioners") and their respective shareholders and creditors, was presented by the Petitioners before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal (Bengaluru Bench) ("Tribunal") on April 1, 2022 ("Petition") and the Hon'ble Tribunal by way of its order dated June 28, 2022 was pleased to fix the date of hearing of the said Petition on August 4, 2022.

Any person who is desirous of supporting or opposing the said Petition should send to the Petitioners' advocate at the address mentioned hereunder, a notice of his/her intention, signed by him/her or his/her advocate, with his full name and address, so as to reach the Petitioners' advocate not later than two days before the date fixed for the hearing of the Petition. Where he/she seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds of opposition or a copy of the affidavit intended to be used in opposition to the Petition, should be filed with the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru bench, at 12th Floor, Raheja Towers, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001, and a copy thereof served on the Petitioners' advocate, not less than two days before the date fixed for hearing. A copy of the Petition shall be furnished by the Petitioners' advocate to any person requiring the same on payment of the prescribed charges.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 18-07-2022

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Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
I, EUNICE RUTH KRIBANITHI D, W/o. Paul Sukguru Singh, R/at 6/41, 2nd Cross, Hennur Main Road, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore 84. I have lost my original Gift Deed property document, while travelling from Mayohall to residence. I have raised a lost complaint on dated 15/07/2022, bearing FIR No. 0269334/2022, Gift Deed document No. BNG BNT 13874/1999-2000, Pages 1 to 12, dated 24/03/2000, SCHEDULE at Site No. 6, Assessment No. 95/2, Katha No. 695, situated at Kacharakanahalli, Kasaba hobli, Bangalore North taluk, overall 1093.75 sqft, if anyone found the document Please contact Mobile No. 9886483809, Advocate : B Seshegiri, Mob No. 9844353493.

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EDUCATIONAL

LEGAL NOTICE
In the court of the II Additional District Judge, Tiruchirappalli
OS Number 142/2021
IA 1/2021
Meena Narasimhan
W/o R Narasimhan
New No 110/B,
Rangarajapuram Main Road,
Kodambakkam,
Chennai 600 024 ..... Plaintiff
Versus
1. Shobha Sachin Bhagat
W/o Sachin Bhagat
506, "Ashraya", 7th Main,
11th Cross, Girinagar 2nd Phase
Bangalore 560 085
2. Siddharth Pramod
S/o Pramod Rao
506, "Ashraya", 7th Main,
11th Cross, Girinagar 2nd Phase
Bangalore 560 085
3. Sushma Pramod
D/o Pramod Rao
506, "Ashraya", 7th Main,
11th Cross, Girinagar 2nd Phase
Bangalore 560 085
.....Defendants 8, 10 and 11
NOTICE
Plaintiff filed a suit in the above court for partition and other reliefs under OS No.142/2021 in IA Number 1/2021. The above case is posted on 29-07-2022 for appearance of the defendants. You may appear in person or through your counsel on the above date at 10:30 AM failing which an ex-parte order will be passed against you. To that effect this publication is effected.
V Srinivasan B Com, BL
Advocate for Plaintiff
95/A, Salai Road,
Woraiyur, Trichy - 600 003
Cell: 94431 45452

ELSEWHERE

Eight killed in cargo plane crash in Greece

KAVALA
All eight crew members were killed when a Ukrainian-operated cargo plane crashed in Greece en route from Serbia to Bangladesh carrying military goods. According to a briefing by the Greek Fire Brigade on Sunday afternoon, two bodies were found.

Iran arrests several after protests at drying lake

TEHRAN
Iranian police have arrested several people over their protest against the drying up of a lake once regarded as the West Asia's largest, official media said on Sunday. Lake Urmia began shrinking in 1995 due to a combination of prolonged drought, and extraction of water for farming and dams. AFP

U.S. is provoking tensions in West Asia, says Iran

This comes after Biden's Saudi visit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Tehran on Sunday accused Washington of provoking tensions in the West Asia, a day after U.S. President Joe Biden ended a tour to Iran's rival Saudi Arabia and arch-foe Israel.

Washington "has once again resorted to the failed policy of Iran-phobia, trying to create tensions and crises in the region," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said.

The comments come after Mr. Biden on Saturday vowed that the U.S. would not "tolerate efforts by any country to dominate another in the region through military buildups, incursions, and/or threats", in a transparent reference to Iran.

Mr. Biden's first visit to the region came just a few days before Russian President Vladimir Putin is due to visit Tehran on July 19.

Mr. Biden in a speech in Jeddah said that Washington would remain fully engaged in West Asia. "We will not walk away and leave a vacuum to be filled by China, Russia or Iran," Mr. Biden said. He was speaking at a summit that brought together the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council as well as Egypt, Jordan and Iraq.

The leaders underscored diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and notably called for enhanced joint deterrence capabilities "against the increasing threat" posed by unmanned aerial vehicles – a likely reference to Tehran, which on Friday unveiled ships and submarines capable of carrying armed drones.

Sudan tribal clashes toll rises to 60

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KHARTOUM

Tribal clashes in Sudan's southern Blue Nile State, on the border with Ethiopia, have killed 60 and wounded 163 people since erupting nearly a week ago, the State's Health Minister said. The toll was 33 the previous day.

"Thirteen of the wounded are in a serious condition and will be transferred to hospitals in Khartoum," Jamal Nasser told AFP by phone from the state capital Al-Damazin.

The clashes, between the Berti and Hawsa tribes, first erupted last Monday.

Meanwhile, police fired tear gas in Khartoum on Sunday against hundreds of anti-coup protesters, who also called attention to increasingly deadly tribal clashes in the country's south.

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ASK US

N. SREE KANTH

Rental income

Q. My wife and I are senior citizens drawing pension. We have a flat in our joint names which has been let out.
Hitherto the monthly rent was being credited to our joint account. But the entire rental amount was shown as income in my hands and tax paid accordingly.
From this (2022-23) FY we are thinking of crediting the rent to the account in the individual name of my wife which will be shown as her income for income tax purposes.
We would like to have your comments on the proposal, specially on the tax implications, if any.

T.VISWANATHAN

A. The house property is jointly held in both your and your wife's names due to which the rental income arising out of the house property will be treated as income in your hands and your wife's hands irrespective of who receives the funds based on the proportion of ownership.

You may collect the monies to either of your accounts or your joint account based on your convenience and ease of operation of your funds.

After filing of the return, there may be a possibility of receiving a request from I-T department to clarify for the drop in the rental income. Once you clarify your stand, it will be closed. Chances are high of receiving this if the monthly rents are substantial.

Income tax rebate

Q. I have referred the 'Moneywise' section of your newspaper and have the following query regarding income tax rebate, a reply to which would be graciously received.
I am a salaried person and have invested in a mix of ELSS and NPS (employee contribution deducted beforehand) for claiming rebate in income tax under section 80C.
Total investment is about ₹1.65 lakh. After a tax rebate of ₹1.5 lakh under section 80C, can I claim an additional tax rebate of ₹15,000 under section 80CCD (1B) if my contribution in NPS is about ₹90,000?
Can one claim a tax rebate of any value ranging from zero to ₹50,000 under 80CCD (1B) or it has to be ₹50,000 only assuming the contribution in NPS is likewise?

ARUSHI JAIN

A. Contribution to NPS directly by your employer as employee share and employer share is covered under Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, respectively.

The deductions on account of these contributions are covered under Section 80CCE of the Income Tax Act, 1961 whereby a limit of ₹1.5 lakh is imposed for the deductions under Section 80C, Section 80CCC, Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) of the Act.

You are not eligible to claim the shortfall of the deductions of Section 80CCD(1) and Section 80CCD(2) under Section 80CCD(1B). You shall be eligible to claim deduction under Section 80CCD(1B) only when you make an additional contribution voluntarily up to an amount of ₹50,000.

One can claim a tax deduction of any value up to ₹50,000 based on the actual voluntary contribution made by them in a particular assessment year.

Home loan

Q. I am 24 years old. I have a question related to home loan and tax benefit.
My father had recently taken a home loan off ₹15 lakh from a cooperative bank at 10.5% interest rate for 10 years.
My father is a State government employee. Recently, I had seen my father's payslip which mentioned a net amount of about ₹45,000.
I had noticed a tax deduction of ₹8,000 from his salary every month.
For the bank loan, every month he pays ₹22,000. Is there any way to reduce the tax deduction from his salary?
I want to highlight his home loan to reduce tax liability. Can you please give me suggestions?

JEEVAN P.

A. With respect to the principal component in the EMI, the amount of principal repaid in the assessment year can be claimed as deduction under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as amounts repaid towards the capital borrowed for the purpose of purchase or construction of a residential property whose income is chargeable under "Income from House Property" can be claimed as deduction.

With respect to interest component in the EMI, the interest paid on housing loan can be claimed under Section 24 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

It is to be noted that the maximum deduction under this provision cannot exceed ₹2 lakh per year (including the interest paid for that assessment year).

Your father is required to declare to his employer regarding the home loan repayment by producing a certificate issued by the lender which will have the break-up of the interest paid and the principal repaid based on which the deductions will be taken into consideration while computing the tax on his salary and the respective TDS on the salary.

(The adviser is Partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Active or passive? Don't ignore either

Evaluate both, then pick what suits you best. If you aren't sure if active funds will outperform the benchmark, then opt to go passive

JOYDEEP SEN

There is a debate going on, between holding actively and passively managed funds. Debates are healthy, as various perspectives come out. However, as experts debate the topic, your focus should be on how to benefit and apply it in your context. We will discuss the relevant parameters that you should evaluate. Let us first look at the concept being discussed.

An actively managed fund is one where the decisions about the portfolio, e.g. which instrument to buy, how much to buy, when to sell, etc., are taken by the fund manager. There are investment objectives and contours set for the fund, as per SEBI regulations and internal norms of the asset management company (AMC) within the regulations. As per the norms, the portfolio is managed by the fund manager designated for the fund by the AMC. There is usually a committee of AMC personnel who supervise the decisions of the individual fund manager.

A passively managed fund is one where there is a defined index which the fund is supposed to replicate. There is a designated fund manager in a passively managed fund as well, but s/he does not take any portfolio management decision. His/her job is just to replicate the index – monitor the index composition and tweak the fund composition accordingly.

Performance

The big question is, which one is good for you? The most common yardstick is performance vis-à-vis the relevant index. For active funds, the yardstick is the out-performance or under-performance against the index. A frequently-used indicator is point-to-point performance over various time periods e.g. last one year, five years, 10 years, etc.

On this parameter, a lot of noise is being made on under-performance of active funds, particularly in the large-cap category. In the mid-cap and small-cap category, active funds have done well against their benchmarks. However, there is another method of measurement, called the daily-rolling method, which takes the return on a daily basis rather than last one year or five years. On this basis, active funds in the large-cap category have done much better vis-à-vis the relevant benchmark, than as measured by the conventional method. The takeaway for you is that, in mid and small-cap category, active funds have done better as there is a wider scope for the fund manager whereas in the large-cap category, it is a mixed picture depending on how you evaluate performance.

Replicating index

In passive funds also, performance against the benchmark is relevant, though the job of the fund manager is only to replicate the index. The purpose is to gauge how closely the fund is tracking the benchmark, or is failing to do so. There is one metric called "tracking error" which is a statistical measure, which looks at deviations from the benchmark on both sides, positive or negative, as a pure number. The other metric is "tracking difference", which shows during the time period under consideration, how much lower the return is from the benchmark, due to errors and expenses.

Expense ratio

There is a lot of noise about the relatively higher expense ratio in active funds and the fact that some of the active funds, in spite of charging the expenses, are not delivering the alpha i.e. out-performance over the benchmark. However, Mutual Fund NAVs are post the fund management recurring expenses charged, and the returns are anyway net of expenses. When you look at the performance of a fund, either active or passive, and you compare it with the benchmark, you are anyway comparing the net result. To put the same thing in other words, if a fund has done well in spite of relatively higher expenses, it should not be penalised further.

Fund objective

The objective of passive funds is to replicate the designated index. Hence, there is no attempt to gun for the alpha like in active funds, where they try to beat the benchmark. If you are in doubt as to whether active funds would be able to outperform the index or not, and if you are happy to earn just the index returns, then you may go for passive funds.

In case of theme-based funds or mid-cap/small-cap funds, where you are going with the skills of the fund manager, you would rather go for active funds.

Liquidity

In active funds, apart from ELSS funds that have a lock-in and a few close-ended funds, liquidity is easy, in the form of purchase from/redemption with the AMC, in the usual course. Passive funds come in two formats. One is that of index funds, which track an index and you can transact with the AMC in the usual course. The other format is Exchange Traded Funds, which also track an index, but you have to trade the units at the stock exchange. This won't be an issue, but you have to have an account with a broker and a demat account, for dealing in ETFs.

We started off by saying that you should take advantage of what is there on offer and learn from the debate. For you, it is not about "active *versus* passive" but "active *and* passive". You pick and choose what is suitable for you. For certain categories, you may go with active, and for other categories of funds, opt for passive ones.

If your priority is to just earn index-driven returns without worrying for that little extra, you can take passive. Mind you, returns from passives will be as volatile as the underlying market. There should not be a confusion that just because a fund is passively managed, returns would be like a straight line. If you want the fund manager to bat for you, then actives are for you.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)

THINK INVESTOR: INVESTMENT DECISIONS

To buy or not to buy declines, that's the question

Whether price dips are worth buying into depends on the reasons that led to such changes

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

When market tanks as it did recently, a question that most individuals want to know is whether to invest in shares and mutual funds on price declines.

In this article, we discuss how you should view price declines and why it is not the same as end-of-season sale for apparels and appliances.

Behavioural attitudes

Our brain lights up as a Christmas tree when we see discounts. If a product that retails for ₹10,000 is available for ₹2,000, our brain processes the information as a saving of ₹8,000, not as debit of ₹2,000!

Small wonder that individuals want to know whether to invest on price declines. The issue is that buying a product at a discount to its maximum retail price is different from buying stocks at a discount. Why?

You buy a product for personal consumption. The satisfaction you derive is based on perceived value, which increases with discounts.

Buying a stock or investing in a mutual fund on declines is different. You must sell your investments later to capture gains. That means the market must perceive greater value in those investments in the future. In addition to a company's fundamentals, this is based on the collective behavioural attitude of market participants.

Also, there is the framing bias to consider – your perceived value depends on the reference point. If you believe that stock prices were reasonably priced before the market declined, then such price declines could open doors for bargain hunting.

But if you believe that the market was overpriced earlier, then a decline is a price correction to reasonable levels, not necessarily a bargain!

Market typically trends in one direction unless it is in a consolidation phase. So, when the market stops its uptrend and turns, how will you know whether it is a temporary respite for the bulls or whether the bears are in for a long haul?

Technical factors

This is important because if you buy on declines and the market continues to plumb new lows, you are likely to end up with losses, adding to unrealised losses you may have on your existing investments.

The typical advice is to buy on declines. But before you do that, consider whether you are investing to achieve a goal in the near term. If so, you may have to consider if the price is likely to bounce back to levels that will help you meet such near-term goals.

Roll the dice: Surplus cash can be invested in a declining market if an investor has not set any goal to achieve. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

This factor is important because of the herd mentality among market participants. When the market declines, pessimism sets in. So, it is not surprising to see inflation or political uncertainty hitting the headlines, pushing prices even lower. Thus, whether price declines are worth buying into depends on the reasons that led to such price changes. If you continue to read that macroeconomic factors are likely to have an adverse impact on a home-country's economy, then it is best to wait.

Conclusion

So, when should you buy price declines? The answer depends on two factors. One, do you have surplus cash? And two, are you willing to invest this cash without having to achieve a goal, or perhaps you want to accumulate money for the next generation without a definitive time horizon? If so, buying on declines could be meaningful.

If the market continues to decline, you have the time and the financial capacity to wait for the prices to recover.

Otherwise, it is best to stay away from such declines (note: you should continue your existing SIPs on your goal-based investments).

True, you would miss out on a rally in the stock market. But if the market goes south, you may end up with large losses. Remember, losses hurt more than gains give us happiness. Missing out on a rally will no doubt hurt. But buying a decline that continues to plumb new lows could be more stressful.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure - 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure - 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
HDFC Bank	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Citibank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 2.75%
State Bank of India	10.00-13.75	10,624-11,569	2,125-2,314	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of India	10.25-13.25	10,685-11,441	2,137-2,288	Up to 1% (Max Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	11.10-14.80	10,896-11,843	2,179-2,369	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	8.80-15.35	10,331-11,987	2,066-2,397	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-15.50	10,621-12,027	2,124-2,405	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	10.49-17.99	10,744-12,694	2,149-2,539	Up to 3%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.40-12.40	10,722-11,224	2,144-2,245	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	11.25-19.00	10,934-12,970	2,187-2,594	Up to 2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.35-13.70	10,464-11,557	2,093-2,311	Up to 1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.90-11.90	10,846-11,097	2,169-2,219	Up to 0.75%
Karnataka Bank	12.00-17.00	11,122-12,426	2,224-2,485	Up to 2% (Max Rs 8,500)

NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
Punjab National Bank	7.55-8.50	10,031-10,258	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	7.70-11.00	10,067-10,871	0.50% (Rs 2,500-Rs 10,000)
Canara Bank	7.90-10.80	10,114-10,821	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 5,000)
State Bank of India	7.45-8.35	10,007-10,222	NIL
IDBI Bank	8.10 - 9.90	10,162-10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-11.20	10,067-10,921	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank	8.45	10,246	0.5% - 0.6% (Rs 500-10,000)
ICICI Bank	7.85 onwards	10,102 onwards	Rs 5,500-Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	7.95-8.30	10,126-10,210	0.5% (Rs 3,500-Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.34-10.39	10,220-10,720	Up to 0.6% (max. Rs 11,000)
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.70-8.80	10,067-10,331	Up to 0.25% (Rs 1,000-15,000)
Federal Bank	9.40	10,477	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Axis Bank	8.20-11.40	10,186-10,971	Rs 3,500-Rs 5,500
South Indian Bank	10.05-11.50	10,636-10,996	1% (max. Rs 10,000)
RBL Bank	12.00-14.00	11,122-11,634	1% of loan amount
Indian Bank	7.80-8.00	10,090-10,138	0.50% (max. Rs 10,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holder. 0.05% concession on interest rate to women & armed forces personnel subject to minimum floor ceiling of RLLR.

**0.10% interest rate concession to women car owners having contribution in EMI, subject to minimum ROI.

Rates and charges as on July 14

Source: Paisabazaar.com

Basking in glory: The Indian players' joy knows no bounds as they celebrate after clinching the ODI series 2-1 against England. • AP

Hardik, Pant star as India has the last laugh

Former's superb all-round show and latter's stunning unbeaten 125 help Men in Blue subdue England

INDIA IN ENG

REUTERS
MANCHESTER

Rishabh Pant's unbeaten 125 and Hardik Pandya's superb all-round display helped India seal a five wicket victory over England in the third and final ODI at Old Trafford on Sunday and complete a 2-1 series victory.

Chasing 260 for victory, India lost skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for 17 runs each after both experienced batters fell to Reece Topley. In the company of Pant, Hardik took charge with a fluent 71 off 55 balls.

Maiden ODI ton

The pair stitched together 133 runs for the fifth wicket to set up a comfortable win, with Pant going on to score his maiden ton in the format after Hardik fell to a spectacular catch by Ben Stokes off the bowling of Brydon Carse.

India's explosive wicket-keeper-batter Pant took the team home with 47 balls to spare by reverse-sweeping Joe Root for four. He had smashed David Willey for five boundaries in the previous over.

> **Hopefully I'll remember my first ODI century for the rest of my life**
> PANT

"Hopefully I'll remember my first ODI century for the rest of my life," Pant said.

"But when I was in there, I was just focusing on one ball at a time. When a team is under pressure and you bat like that, that's what you aspire to do."

Earlier, England was dismissed for 259 in 45.5 overs with Hardik picking up four wickets.

Perfect start

After India won the toss and chose to bowl, fast bowler Mohammed Siraj gave the visitors a perfect start, dismissing Jonny Bairstow and Root for ducks in the second over to leave England at 12 for two.

Jason Roy (41) and Stokes (27) steadied the ship but Hardik (four for 24) struck in his first over to remove Roy and later dismissed Stokes to apply the brakes. Moeen Ali then combined with Jos Buttler for a 75-run fifth-wicket stand before he was caught behind off Ravindra Jadeja.

India's bowlers used the short ball to good effect and Buttler looked shaken when he was hit twice on the helmet by two bouncers in one over from Siraj, but the skipper settled down and looked to push England to a competitive total.

Hardik struck twice in the 36th over, dismissing Liam Livingstone (27) before getting rid of Buttler (60), with both batters holing out to Jadeja in the deep.

England failed to get going in the death overs and although Craig Overton made 32, the home team was bowled out as Yuzvendra Chahal (3/60) cleaned up the tail. "We were short on runs," said Buttler. "We needed a good start with the ball so that was fantastic. We created chances, but two guys took the game away from us, that's where we lost the game."

Indian paceman Jasprit Bumrah missed the decider due to a back spasm.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND
Jason Roy c Pant b Hardik 41 *(31b, 7x4)*, Jonny Bairstow c sub (Shreyas) b Siraj 0 *(3b)*, Joe Root c Rohit b Siraj 0 *(3b)*, Ben Stokes c & b Hardik 27 *(29b, 4x4)*, Jos Buttler c Jadeja b Hardik 60 *(80b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Moeen Ali c Pant b Jadeja 34 *(44b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Liam Livingstone c Jadeja b Hardik 27 *(31b, 2x4, 2x6)*, David Willey c Suryakumar b Chahal 18 *(15b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Craig Overton c Kohli b Chahal 32 *(33b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Brydon Carse (not out) 3 *(7b)*, Reece Topley b Chahal 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-13, nb-2): 17; Total (in 45.5 overs): 259.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-12 (Bairstow, 1.3 overs), 2-12 (Root, 1.6), 3-66 (Roy, 9.5), 4-74 (Stokes, 13.2), 5-149 (Moeen, 27.2), 6-198 (Livingstone, 36.3), 7-199 (Buttler, 36.6), 8-247 (Willey, 43.4), 9-257 (Overton, 45.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Shami 7-0-38-0, Siraj 9-1-66-2, Prasidh 9-0-48-0, Hardik 7-3-24-4, Chahal 9.5-0-60-3, Jadeja 4-0-21-1

INDIA
Rohit Sharma c Root b Topley 17 *(17b, 4x4)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Roy b Topley 1 *(3b)*, Virat Kohli c Buttler b Topley 17 *(22b, 3x4)*, Rishabh Pant (not out) 125 *(113b, 16x4, 2x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Buttler b Overton 16 *(28b, 1x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Stokes b Carse 71 *(55b, 10x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 7 *(15b)*; Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-3): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 42.1 overs): 261.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-13 (Dhawan, 2.1), 2-21 (Rohit, 4.6), 3-38 (Kohli, 8.1), 4-72 (Suryakumar, 16.2), 5-205 (Hardik, 35.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING
Topley 7-1-35-3, Willey 7-0-58-0, Carse 8-0-45-1, Moeen 8-0-33-0, Overton 8-0-54-1, Stokes 2-0-14-0, Livingstone 2-0-14-0, Root 0.1-0-4-0

Toss: India; **Man-of-the-match:** Pant; **Man-of-the-series:** Hardik.

India won by five wickets with 47 balls remaining to clinch series 2-1.

Moment to cherish: Sindhu has great company in celebrating her triumph. • SINGAPORE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Sindhu conquers Singapore

It is the Indian shuttler's third trophy of the 2022 season

SINGAPORE OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGAPORE

Double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu lifted the Singapore Open Super 500 trophy outwitting China's Wang Zhi Yi in an intense women's singles final here on Sunday.

In an error-filled clash, Sindhu managed to stay strong in the key moments to come up trumps against the 22-year-old Wang. The final score read 21-9, 11-21, 21-15.

Sindhu came into the match with a 1-0 head-to-head, having beaten the Chinese in their only meeting at the All England this year.

Fighting the drift

With the drift in the hall making life difficult for the shuttlers, Sindhu managed to limit unforced errors and keep her nerve to emerge victorious.

After losing the first two points, Sindhu played some superb angled returns, and produced winner after winner to stay ahead all the way.

> **I am very happy because after a long time coming here to Singapore and winning this means a lot to me**

Playing against the drift allowed the Indian to go for her shots even as Wang hit wide and long.

The second game, however, turned into a forgettable affair for Sindhu as Wang, now on the better side of the court, displayed her prowess. The Chinese was soon up 11-3 after Sindhu repeatedly sent the shuttle long.

Sindhu tried to use the spinning net shot and use the gaps on the court, but points eluded her. Wang grabbed a massive 10 game-points and converted on the second attempt.

The match came alive in the decider. While Wang seemed charged up initially, Sindhu was patient and marked up a five-point advantage at the interval with a superb cross-court smash from the deep forehand corner.

Back to the better side after the final change of ends, Wang reduced the deficit to 11-12. Sindhu, however, held on even as Wang played some superb drops and hold-and-disguise pushes.

Sindhu soon was on five match-points and threw her arms up in celebration as Wang hit long.

Ginting wins title

Later, Indonesia's Anthony Ginting ended his two-year title drought by beating Japan's Kodai Naraoka 23-21, 21-17 in the men's final.

ANI adds

President, PM's kudos

President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Sindhu on her victory.

"I congratulate @Pvsindhu1 on winning her first ever Singapore Open title. She has yet again demonstrated her exceptional sporting talent and achieved success. It is a proud moment for the country and will also give inspiration to upcoming players," tweeted Modi.

Babar scores century

Jayasuriya returns third successive five-for

Brilliant knock: Babar held firm, raising 133 runs with the tailenders. • AFP

PAKISTAN IN SL

AGENCIES
GALLE

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam made a defiant 119 to thwart a Sri Lankan spin attack led by Prabath Jayasuriya on day two of an evenly poised first Test on Sunday.

Babar single-handedly took the tourists to just four runs short of Sri Lanka's 222 as he put on a 70-run 10th-wicket stand with Naseem Shah, who made five not out off 52 balls.

Sri Lanka was 36 for one at stumps after losing skipper Dimuth Karunaratne.

Jayasuriya claimed his third successive five-for. Pakistan slumped to 85 for seven before lunch and then 148 for nine in the second session.

But Babar kept up the fight and reached his seventh Test century with a four and single off Maheesh Theekshana. Theekshana, who took two wickets, finally had the star batter trapped lbw to end the Pakistan innings on 218 in the final session. Jayasuriya became the first Sri Lankan and eighth overall to claim three five-wicket hauls in his first two Tests.

Babar's feat

Babar became the fastest Asian batter in terms of innings to reach 10,000 international runs across formats. He reached the landmark in 228 innings, beating Virat Kohli's record of 232 innings.

He is the fifth fastest to achieve the feat after Vivian Richards (206), Hashim Amla (217), Brian Lara (220), and Joe Root (222).

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Sunday shifted the venue of the second Test from Colombo to Galle.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 222.
Pakistan — 1st innings: Abdullah Shafique lbw b Jayasuriya 13, Imam-ul-Haq lbw b Rajitha 2, Azhar Ali lbw b Jayasuriya 3, Babar Azam lbw b Theekshana 119, Mohammad Rizwan c Dickwella b R. Mendis 19, Agha Salman lbw b Jayasuriya 5, Mohammad Nawaz c Fernando b Jayasuriya 5, Shaheen Shah Afridi lbw b Jayasuriya 0, Yasir Shah c de Silva b Theekshana 18, Hasan Ali c Chandimal b R. Mendis 17, Naseem Shah (not out) 5; Extras (b-5, lb-1, nb-1, w-5): 12; Total (in 90.5 overs): 218.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-21, 3-24, 4-64, 5-73, 6-85, 7-85, 8-112, 9-148.
Sri Lanka bowling: Rajitha 11-2-42-1, Theekshana 25.5-6-68-2, Jayasuriya 39-10-82-5, R. Mendis 13-2-18-2, de Silva 2-0-2-0.
Sri Lanka — 2nd innings: Oshada Fernando (batting) 17, Dimuth Karunaratne lbw b Nawaz 16, Kasun Rajitha (batting) 3; Total (for one wkt. in 11.5 overs): 36.
Fall of wicket: 1-33.
Pakistan bowling: Shaheen 4-1-16-0, Nawaz 5-0-12-1, Agha 2.5-1-8-0.

QUICK SINGLES

West Indies recalls Holder for India series

ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)

West Indies on Sunday recalled star all-rounder Jason Holder for a three-match ODI series against India as it looks to bounce back from a humbling loss to Bangladesh. Former skipper Holder missed the 3-0 series defeat against Bangladesh in Guyana as selectors wanted to manage his workload as one of the West Indies' all-format players.

The three matches will be played on July 22, 24 and 27 at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

The squad: Nicholas Pooran (Capt.), Shai Hope, Shamarh Brooks, Keacy Carty, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Rovman Powell and Jayden Seales. AFP

Asia Cup likely to be shifted from Sri Lanka to UAE

COLOMBO

Amid the ongoing economic crisis, the upcoming Asia Cup 2022, which was supposed to be hosted by Sri Lanka, is now likely to be shifted to the UAE. According to sources in Sri Lanka Cricket, the Board has finally taken a decision to shift the tournament to another country. "Yes, we are planning to shift the tournament to the UAE. We have discussed this matter with the ACC officials and will officially announce this soon," said a source. ANI

Smith trumps McIlroy for a sensational win

Five straight birdies helps the Australian win his maiden Major

BRITISH OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. ANDREWS

The 150th edition of The Open Championship called for a final round worthy of the annals of history. Cameron Smith rose to the occasion and wrote his own chapter at the Old Course.

Smith used a run of five consecutive birdies to card an 8-under 64, overtake Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy and win the landmark event by one stroke for his first Major title.

The Australian posted a four-round score of 20-under 268, tying the Major championship record for lowest score relative to par.

Cameron Young, his playing partner, eagled the 18th hole to finish second.

McIlroy was third, two shots behind.

Smith's strength became McIlroy's weakness on Sunday. The crowd favourite two-putted all holes, leaving several birdie chances behind. He notched up top-10 finishes at Majors this year, but couldn't end his Major drought dating to 2014.

Jug that cheers: Smith produced some sensational golf in the final round to claim the iconic trophy • AFP

Kerley leads US sweep of men's 100m

Fajdek claims record fifth hammer title; Gidey stuns Hasan

WORLD C'SHIPS

REUTERS
EUGENE

Fred Kerley led an American clean sweep in the men's 100 metres final at the World Championships in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday and Chase Ealey helped give home fans a night to remember with the first U.S. victory in the women's shot put.

Kerley, the Tokyo Olympics silver medallist, timed his dip perfectly to clock 9.86 seconds and pip compatriots Marvin Bracy and Trayvon Bromell in front of an underwhelming home crowd at Hayward Field.

"It's amazing to do it on home soil with the home crowd behind us. It's a wonderful blessing to get a clean sweep," said Kerley, who had run the fastest-ever World Championships heat on Friday with 9.79.

Bracy edged Bromell for silver by two thousandths of a second after both ran 9.88. Another American, defending champion Christian Coleman, finished sixth.

Jacobs pulls out

Italy's Olympic 100m champion Lamont Jacobs, who has battled a thigh injury for several weeks, pulled out of the semifinals earlier on Saturday.

A dip in time... Kerley emerged the fastest man despite trailing Bracy, right, for most of the race. • REUTERS

In shot put, Ealey threw 20.49 metres with her opening attempt to win the U.S. team's first World Championships gold medal on home soil and deny China's Gong Lijiao a third successive title.

Ethiopian world record holder Letesenbet Gidey beat defending champion Sifan Hassan to win the women's 10,000m gold in 30:09.94, the fastest time of the year.

In men's hammer, Poland's Pawel Fajdek produced the best throw of the year to claim his fifth World title.

The results: Men: 100m: 1. Fred Kerley (USA) 9.86s; 2. Marvin Bracy (USA) 9.88s; 3. Trayvon Bromell (USA) 9.88s.
Hammer: 1. Pawel Fajdek (Pol) 81.98m; 2. Wojciech Nowicki (Pol) 81.03m; 3. Eivind Henriksen (Nor) 80.87m.
Long jump: 1. Wang Jianan (Chn) 8.36m; 2. Miltiadis Tentoglou (Gre) 8.32m; 3. Simon Ehammer (Sui) 8.16m.
Women: 10000m: 1. Letesenbet Gidey (Eth) 30:09.94s; 2. Hellen Obiri (Ken) 30:10.02s; 3. Margaret Chelimo Kipkemboi (Ken) 30:10.07s. **Shot put:** 1. Chase Ealey (USA) 20.49m; 2. Gong Lijiao (Chn) 20.39m; 3. Jessica Schilder (Ned) 19.77m.

Sreeshankar finishes seventh

Steeplechaser Parul Chaudhary clocks personal best time

SPORTS BUREAU

- China's Asian Games champion Jianan Wang shocked Greece's Olympic gold medallist Miltiadis Tentoglou to grab the long jump gold
- Performance-wise, it was the weakest long jump final at the Worlds in nearly 20 years

National record holder M. Sreeshankar finished seventh with 7.96m in the men's long jump final at the World Athletics Championships at Eugene, USA, on Saturday.

The 23-year-old, who has a personal best of 8.36m which came in the Federation Cup at Malappuram in early April, opened his series with 7.96m but could not better it in his other two legal jumps (fourth jump 7.89, sixth 7.83).

Performance-wise, it was the weakest long jump final at the Worlds in nearly 20 years and was packed with surprises.

Switzerland's Simon Ehammer, this year's outdoor world leader with 8.45m, took the bronze with just 8.16m.

China's Asian Games champion Jianan Wang shocked Greece's Olympic gold medallist Miltiadis Tentoglou, who had a consistent series, to grab the gold with a season-best 8.36m in the last round.

Sweden's Thobias Montler (7.81m), last year's Diamond League champion and the indoor Worlds silver medallist in February, and Japan's Asian champion Yuki Hashioka (7.86m), who was sixth in last year's Tokyo Olympic Games, failed to even progress to the top eight.

Parul Chaudhary clocked a personal best 9:38.09s while finishing 12th in her heat (31st overall) in the women's 3000m steeplechase, but that wasnot enough to carry her to the final.

Jabir seventh

And M.P. Jabir was seventh in his men's 400m hurdles heat (31st overall out of 35 finishers) and failed to progress to the semifinal.

Best effort: Sreeshankar competes in the long jump final.. • AFP

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 1st Test, day 3, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.
Ireland vs New Zealand: 1st T20I, FanCode, 8.30 p.m.
World Athletics Championships: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, World Athletics YouTube & Facebook Channels, 5 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF

Hewitt inducted into Tennis Hall of Fame

NEWPORT

Lleyton Hewitt, a two-time Grand Slam champion and former World No. 1, was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday, a ceremony delayed from 2021 by Covid-19. Hewitt won the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon titles among 30 career ATP triumphs and helped Australia capture the Davis Cup in 1999 and 2003. ATP

Bangladesh's Tamim retires from T20Is

DHAKA

Bangladesh opening batsman Tamim Iqbal announced his retirement from Twenty20 Internationals on Sunday. Tamim has been Bangladesh's most prolific batsman, accumulating 14,726 international runs across all formats. He has not played a T20I since March 2020 but continued to play other formats, leading the country's 50-over side for the last two years. AFP

Vani climbs to second, Diksha fifth

ARNHEM

Vani Kapoor carded a one-under 71 to sit one shot off the lead at T-2, with Austria's Sarah Schober (73), after the third round of the Big Green Egg Open here on Saturday. Anna Nordqvist led on seven-under, while Diksha Dagar shot 73 to be T-5. Amandeep Drall (74) was T-30 and Ridhima Dilawari (77) slipped to 63rd. PTI

Aditi & Pajaree finish 24th

MIDLAND (USA)

The Indo-Thai pair of Aditi Ashok and Pajaree Annanarukarn finished T-24th despite a 7-under final round of the Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational golf here. The pair shot 72, 62, 69 in the three rounds. Jennifer Kupcho and Lizette Salas closed out with a 9-under 61 in best-ball play for a five-stroke victory in the LPGA Tour's lone team event. PTI

Petra Martic claims her second WTA title

PARIS

World No. 85 Petra Martic won the second title of her career by beating Serbian qualifier Olga Danilovic 6-4, 6-2 to claim the Lausanne WTA event on Sunday. Croat Martic, 31, overcame the world 124 in 1hr, 29min to clinch her first success since Istanbul in 2019. AFP

India bows out of Asia Cup

JAKARTA

The Indian men's basketball team suffered a huge defeat against Lebanon, its third consecutive in the competition, to end its campaign in the FIBA Asia Cup on a disappointing note here on Sunday. India lost 63-104 in its final Group D match at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno Stadium. India's best performance in the FIBA Asia Cup was a fourth-place finish in the 1975 edition.

Anjum wins rifle 3-position bronze

Shooter's second successive medal in the World Cup series

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympian Anjum Moudgil continued to excel as she won the bronze medal in the 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the shooting World Cup in Changwon, Korea, on Sunday.

The 28-year-old Anjum, who won air rifle silver at the World Championships, was winning her second successive medal in the World Cup series, following the silver at the Baku World Cup.

It was the third World Cup individual medal in the 3-position event for Anjum, who qualified in sixth place with 586, and missed the chance to fight for gold by 0.5 point.

In elite company: Anjum with Barbara Gambaro and champion Anna Janssen. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Silver for Indian men

In the men's rifle 3-position team event, Czech Republic beat India to the gold 16-12. The trio of Chain Singh, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Sanjeev Rajput had topped the second stage, three points above the Czech, but the latter had the last laugh.

In men's skeet, Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan shot 72, following rounds of 24, 23 and 25 to be in 11th place. Erik Pittini of Italy and Abdullah Alrashidi of Kuwait led with 74.

Two more rounds will be shot on Monday, followed by the medal rounds.

India stayed on top of the medals table with four gold, five silver and two bronze medals, among 20 countries that have managed to make the list.

Host Korea was second with three golds, a silver and a bronze. Serbia was third with three golds.

The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Women: 1. Anna Janssen (Ger) 16 (407.7) 590; 2. Barbara Gambaro (Ita) 10 (403.4) 585; 3. Anjum Moudgil 402.9 (586); 17. Sift Kaur Samra 582.

Team men: 1. Czech Republic (Filip Nepejchal, Petr Nymbursky, Jiri Privratsky) 16 (875) 1322; 2. India (Chain Singh, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Sanjeev Rajput) 12 (878) 1313; 3. Australia 16 (872) 1306; 4. Japan 6 (868) 1296.

25m sports pistol: 1. Singapore 17 (438) 875; 2. Thailand 9 (433) 865; 3. Korea 16 (430) 866; 4. Japan 2 (429) 859.

Rewarding excellence: Turf Authorities of India and BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran with the owners of Supernatural, jockey Trevor and trainer P. Shroff after giving away the prizes for the Betway Bangalore Summer Derby. •K. MURALI KUMAR

Supernatural wins Betway Bangalore Summer Derby

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Supernatural (Trevor up) won the Betway Bangalore Summer Derby, the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (July 17). The winner is owned by Mr. Vijay B. Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. M/s. Keki D. Mehta and Dara K. Mehta & Mehra Stud & Agri Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. and Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria.

Trevor, who rode confidently, kept the colt fourth or fifth last till the 700m before manoeuvring his mount from the inside in the home stretch. Supernatural responded well to the reminders and started galloping with giant strides to overtake the leader Prague near the 150m and win comfortably.

1. MUMBAI SALVER (1,200m), rated 80 & above: **PSYCHIC WARRIOR** (Angad) 1, Automatic (Srinath) 2, The Sovereign Orb (Trevor) 3 and Golden Guest (Ajinkya) 4. 4, 2 and 3. 1m, 14.55s. ₹73 (w), 28 and 22 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 44, FP: 282, Q: 172, Trinella: 355 and 258, Exacta: 2,391 and 1,081. Favourite: The Sovereign Orb. Owner: Mr. J.S. Lokesh. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

2. TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **UNYIELDING** (S. Saqlain) 1, Thousand Words (Akshay K) 2, Del Mar (Ashhad A) 3 and Secretsuperstar (Chethan K) 4. 2-1/2, 3 and 2-1/2. 1m, 15.17s. ₹84 (w), 32, 16 and 15 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 47, FP: 284, Q: 137, Trinella: 414 and 167, Exacta: 3,182 and 2,727. Favourite: Del Mar. Owners: Mr. Darius R. Byramji, Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand & Mr. Ravindran T.C. Trainer: Darius Byramji.

3. MUKUL A. SONAWALA MILLION (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o, (Terms): **SUCRE** (Akshay K) 1, Shamrock (Suraj) 2, Roudy (Srinath) 3 and Triple Wish (T.S. Jodha) 4. 6-3/4, 5-1/4 and 2. 1m, 40.84s. ₹30 (w), 15, 15 and 15 (p), SHP: 50, THP: 23, FP: 134, Q: 72, Trinella: 158 and 94, Exacta: 1,287 and 1,022. Favourite: Sucre. Owner: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

4. HYDERABAD CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **CAPABLE** (G. Vivek) 1, Ruling Goddess (Trevor) 2, Prince Abir (Srinath) 3 and Johnny Bravo (Likith) 4. 1/2, 3-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 55.85s. ₹47 (w), 17, 24 and 23 (p), SHP: 63, THP: 60, FP: 282, Q: 174, Trinella: 2,313 and 927, Exacta: 35,287. Favourite: Southern Dynasty. Owner: Mr. G.S. Reddy. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

5. B.T.C. ANNIVERSARY CUP (1,400m), 4-y-o & over: **KNOTTY DANCER** (Suraj) 1, Miracle (P.S. Chouhan) 2, All Attractive (Sandesh) 3 and Ascoval (Trevor) 4. 1/2, 2-1/2 and 5-1/2. 1m, 27.28s. ₹54 (w), 21 and 14 (p), SHP: 35, THP: 41, FP: 129, Q: 50, Trinella: 333 and 188, Exacta: 836 and 430. Favourite: Miracle. Owners: Mr. K. Kamesh, Mr. K. Balamukunda Das & Mr. Srikanth Badruka. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. BETWAY BANGALORE SUMMER DERBY (2,000M), 3-Y-O, (TERMS): SUPERNATURAL (MULTIDIMENSIONAL-PSYCHIC LIGHT) TREVOR 1, King's Ransom (Multidimensional-China Creek) P.S. Chouhan 2, Mojito (Speaking Of Which-Margarita Rita) N.S. Parmar 3 and Prague (Roderic O'Connor-Memory Bay) Ashhad A 4. Not run: Once You Go Black. 2-1/4, 1 and 3/4. 2m, 09.96s. ₹60 (w), 21, 20 and 26 (p), SHP: 59, THP: 84, FP: 616, Q: 470, Trinella: 3,684 and 1,579, Exacta: 20,213. Favourite: Philosophy. Owners: Mr. Vijay B. Shirke, Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. M/s. Keki D. Mehta and Dara K. Mehta & Mehra Stud & Agri Farms Pvt. Ltd. rep. by. Ms. Ameeta Mehra & Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd and Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria. Trainer: P. Shroff.

7. CHIVAS TROPHY (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **QUEEN ENVIED** (Akshay K) 1, Monteverdi (Suraj) 2, My Solitaire (Trevor) 3 and Salento (Sandesh) 4. 9, 3/4 and 4-1/4. 1m, 28.04s. ₹26 (w), 11, 12 and 20 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 41, FP: 57, Q: 22, Trinella: 193 and 159, Exacta: 315 and 93. Favourite: Monteverdi. Owners: M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP & Sans Craintes Stud Farm. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

8. INDIAN PATTERN COMMITTEE TROPHY (1,600m), rated 20 to 45: **OWN LEGACY** (Trevor) 1, Je Ne Sais Quoi (Kartish B) 2, Roman Power (Akshay K) 3 and Knotty City (Ashhad A) 4. 6-1/4, 1/2 and 3. 1m, 42.26s. ₹37 (w), 16, 25 and 15 (p), SHP: 75, THP: 36, FP: 508, Q: 247, Trinella: 1,539 and 707, Exacta: 5,031 and 1,658. Favourite: Knotty City. Owner: Mr. A.C. Muthiah. Trainer: S. Ganapathy.

Jackpot: ₹69,580 (six tkts.); Runner-up: 7,157 (25 tkts.); Treble (i): 1,930 (11 tkts.); (ii): 1,061 (35 tkts.).

Taijul bowls Bangladesh to series sweep

Pooran's half-century, Motie's career-best go in vain

CRICKET

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PROVIDENCE (GUYANA)

Taijul Islam made a triumphant return to One-Day International cricket with his first five-wicket haul as Bangladesh completed another series sweep of the West Indies, winning the third and final fixture by four wickets here on Saturday.

Playing his first ODI in more than two years, Taijul had a dream start with a wicket off his first delivery to set the stage for an outstanding effort.

He finished with impressive figures of five for 28 as West Indies was dismissed for 178 in 48.4 overs.

Bangladesh stumbled along the way in pursuit of the modest target with Gudakesh Motie claiming career-best figures of four for 23. However, the left-arm spinner could not prevent the tourists reaching the target with nine balls to spare.

Liton Das set the Bangladeshis on the way to an 11th consecutive ODI win over the West Indies with an even 50 while captain Tamim Iqbal played his part with 34.

However, the visitors seemed determined to trip themselves up with some careless shots before an unbeaten 32 from wicketkeeper-batsman Nurul Hasan in partnership with Mehidy Hasan saw them home.

The scores: West Indies 178 in 48.4 overs (Keacy Carty 33, Nicholas Pooran 73; Taijul Islam 5/28) lost to Bangladesh 179/6 in 48.3 overs (Tamim Iqbal 34, Liton Das 50, Mahmudullah 26, Nurul hasan 32; Gudakesh Motie 4/23).

Toss: Bangladesh; **MoM:** Taijul; *Bangladesh won by four wickets with nine balls remaining to sweep series 3-0.*

Taijul Islam. •AFP

Nithya clinches gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan won the women's singles SH6 class, while World No.1 Pramod Bhagat finished runner-up in men's singles SL3 in the 4 Nations Para Badminton International in Dublin, Ireland on Sunday.

Nithya beat Rachel Choong of England 21-14, 18-21, 21-7 in a 32-minute final, while Bhagat went down 17-21, 9-21 to England's Daniel Bethell in the summit clash.

"I am disappointed with my performance," Bhagat said in a release.

Mixed doubles pairing of Chirag Baretha and Mandeep Kaur also settled for silver after losing 14-21, 18-21 to France's Lucas Mazur and Faustine Noel in the finals of SL3-SU5 classification.

Cyrus Poonawalla felicitated

CYRUS J. MADAN
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Turf Club on Sunday felicitated Cyrus S. Poonawalla on being awarded the Padma Bhushan for his distinguished service in trade and industry.

In a simple ceremony, BTC chairman Uday Eswaran and the club committee paid tribute to the man who has been called the 'Vaccine King of India' with a heart of gold.

Dr. Poonawalla's close association with horse racing must have kindled the spark in him to take chances and grab an initiative at the right moment. He took that chance in 1966 to set up the Serum Institute of India on a budget of just $12,000. Today it's a $12 billion company. Dr. Poonawalla, while acknowledging the honour, said his vision was to make vaccines that would be affordable and available to people all over the world. That vision has not faltered and continues to this day.

Saluting a legend: BTC chairman K. Uday Eswaran presenting a memento to Cyrus S. Poonawalla. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hampshire prevails in T20 Blast final by one run

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Hampshire held its nerve to win a record-equalling third English county cricket Twenty20 Blast title defeating Lancashire by just one run in a dramatic final at Edgbaston on Saturday.

With Lancashire needing four off the last ball to reach a target of 153, Australia limited-overs paceman Nathan Ellis bowled Richard Gleeson. But as Hampshire celebrated, with fireworks launched into the Birmingham sky, replays revealed a no-ball.

That left Lancashire needing only two to win but, after the smoke had cleared, Gleeson could only manage a single as Lancashire finished on 151 for eight.

Ben McDermott – son of former Australia fast bowler Craig McDermott – top-scored with 62 in Hampshire's 152 for eight.

The scores: Hampshire 152/8 in 20 overs (Ben McDermott 62; Matt Parkinson 4/26) bt Lancashire 151/8 in 20 overs (Steven Croft 36, Luke Wells 27).

Prarthana-Appleton pair falters at the final hurdle

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Prarthana Thombare in Partnership with Emily Appleton was beaten 6-4, 6-3 in the doubles final by Dalila Jakupovic and Ivana Jorovic in the $60,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at Liepaja in Latvia.

In the $15,000 ITF men's event in Tunisia, Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta and Manish Sureshkumar won the doubles title, beating compatriots Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha [10-8] in the super tie-break.

The results:

$60,000 ITF women, Liepaja, Latvia: Doubles (final): Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) & Ivana Jorovic (Srb) bt Emily Appleton (GBR) & Prarthana Thombare 6-4, 6-3.

Semifinals: Emily & Prarthana bt Nefisa Berberovic (BIH) & Martina Colmegna (Ita) 6-3, 6-4;

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (final): Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Manish Sureshkumar bt Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 3-6, 6-3, [10-8].

Philipsen wins stage 15 as Vingegaard hits the deck

TOUR DE FRANCE

REUTERS
CARCASSONNE

Belgian Jasper Philipsen claimed his maiden victory on the Tour de France when he won a bunch sprint in the 15th stage as overall leader Jonas Vingegaard suffered a bad day on Sunday.

Alpecin-Deceuninck rider Philipsen timed his effort to perfection to beat compatriot Wout van Aert and Dane Mads Pedersen, who were second and third respectively.

Vingegaard retained the yellow jersey but hit the deck and lost two of his Jumbo-Visma teammates as Steven Kruijswijk crashed out and Primoz Roglic did not take the start of the 202.5-km ride from Rodez after failing to recover from injuries.

Vingegaard still leads defending champion Tadej Pogacar by two minutes and 22 seconds.

With temperature above 40 degrees Celsius, organisers sprayed parts of the road with water to cool down the melting tar before the riders passed.

Rajendra rules MRF Rally of Coimbatore again

MOTORSPORTS

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Team Petronas TVS Racing's R.E. Rajendra played it simple and safe in the last two stages to emerge the overall winner of the MRF MoGrip 2W Rally of Coimbatore, the third round of the FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship, organised by the Coimbatore Auto Sports Club, at Kethanur on Sunday.

It was only six months ago that Rajendra beat the best at this very terrain. And, he was in no mood to relax as he scorched the first two stages to take a 21-second lead over his teammate and nearest rival Abdul Waheed Tanveer.

The latter knew he had a task in hand going into the final loop, but then the former kept his cool to finish on top.

"I am quite pleased with my finish. It was a good day for me despite a slippery track. It was fast-paced as well," said an exhausted Rajendra, who was on a RTR 450.

He was happy that his bike withstood the terrain challenges as much as he did.

The results (provisional): Overall: 1. R.E. Rajendra (Petronas TVS Racing); 2. Abdul Waheed Tanveer (Petronas TVS Racing); 3. Samuel Jacob (Petronas TVS Racing).

Rivals and friends: Team Petronas TVS Racing's Rajendra, left, and Abdul Waheed Tanveer in a relaxed mood after the race. •RAYAN ROZARIO

Antim clinches women's 53kg gold

Sarita claims her second consecutive Ranking Series gold medal

WRESTLING

SPORTS BUREAU

- Sarita posted victories in all her three round robin matches

Nineteen-year-old Antim caused three upsets on her way to the women's 53kg gold on her senior international debut at the Zouhaier Sghaier Ranking Series wrestling tournament in Tunis.

World No. 1 Sarita Mor (59kg) won all her three round robin matches – against Germany's Elena Brugger (6-0), Canada's Diana Weicker (10-0) and Tunisia's Siwar Bouseta (14-4) – to claim her second consecutive Ranking Series gold medal.

Antim, who won the Asian under-20 championships gold last week and had bagged the World under-17 bronze and Asian under-23 silver earlier, won five bouts – including victories over Pan-Am champion Dominique Parrish of the USA (11-0), Olympian Luisa Valverde of Ecuador (4-2) and 55kg Pan-Am champion Karla Gonzalz of Canada (4-2) in the final.

Silver for Bipasha

Bipasha (72kg) managed a silver, while Manisha (65kg) bagged a bronze. Deepak Nehra (97kg) won the men's freestyle bronze.

At least three Indian male freestyle wrestlers, including Udit (57kg), Sujeet (65kg) and Sagar Jaglan (75kg), were in the gold medal race on Sunday.

Proud moment: Antim, who caused three upsets on her way to the gold, with National women's head coach Jitender Yadav. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT